

Most family doctors see patients for less than 24 hours a week, study says

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Most family doctors spend only between 12 hours and 24 hours a week seeing patients, a study of 200 general practitioners in Manchester has shown.

The study, by Manchester University's department of general practice, shows big variations in the time doctors actually spend with patients: from five hours a week in one case to 46 in another. But more than 62 per cent of doctors with fewer than 2,000 patients on their books spent only 16 hours or less a week with patients, while colleagues with big lists of more than 2,500 usually spent more time.

The study suggests that reducing the average number of patients on a GP's books from the present average of 2,100 to 1,700 as the British Medical Association advocates may well not result in patients getting more time with their doctors. Reducing the number of doctors with lists of more than 2,500 patients, however, may mean the patients get more time.

The study by Professor David Metcalfe and Dr David Wilkin examined only the time doctors spent with patients in the surgery or on home visits. Travelling to visits, time spent

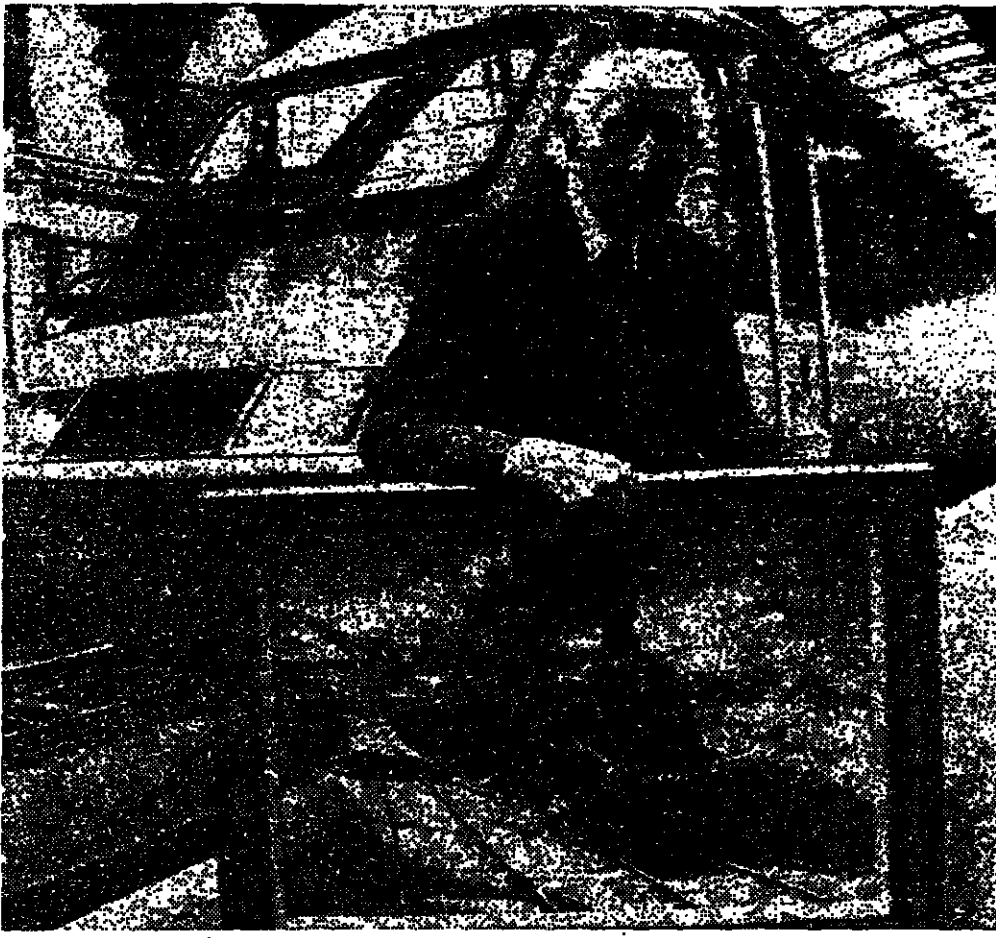
arranging hospital appointments, talking to health visitors, district nurses, social workers and others about patients and doing other work on behalf of patients was not included.

But Professor Metcalfe said yesterday it seemed clear "that the majority of doctors are not overwhelmed in terms of the number of hours they actually spend with patients, none the less 57 per cent of doctors we studied considered themselves overworked and under stress."

He suggested that when doctors say they cannot undertake the sort of preventive and screening work which society wants them to, the reason may not be that they do not have the time, but because they are under stress for other reasons.

With pressure on hospital resources, GPs were having to live with great uncertainty when making difficult decisions about whether to refer patients to hospital.

In inner cities much illness is caused by or compounded by unemployment, poverty, bad housing and because people are not able to get their social security benefits, he said. There was an acute shortage of sheltered housing for the mentally ill, of home helps, health



Famous Five: The Post Office has issued five new stamps to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Great Western Railway. The stamps, painted by Terence Cuneo, all include the artist's trademark - a small mouse. Mr Cuneo (above), aged 76, with his painting of the Flying Scotsman at Paddington Station yesterday, started including a mouse on his stamps as a joke.

Baby heart transplants criticized by doctor

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

A heart specialist has said that the practice of heart transplants for babies, while "challenging and exciting", must be seriously questioned by the medical profession.

Professor Michael Oliver, president of the British Cardiac Society and professor of cardiology at Edinburgh University, disapproves of such operations. He states in a letter in the latest issue of *The Lancet*.

The professor notes that the problem of whether further transplants might be needed as the child grows has not been explored.

The procedure and the maintenance of a normal life after the replacement of an infant's heart are such formidable tasks on resources that their place in the responsible delivery of health care must be questioned, he says.

Professor Oliver says that "embryological development is not always perfect". He adds: "Surgeons, physicians and parents should learn to accept that biology can go awry and that technical feats may not right it again."

"In the context of malformed hearts incompatible with prolonged survival, many parents are young enough to try again."

Professor Oliver's comments come in the wake of two infant heart transplant operations this year, both of which aroused controversy.

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Prestel 'mole' leaking codes

By Bill Johnston Technology Correspondent

An employee of British Telecom has leaked confidential security codes allowing information on Prestel computer files to be altered by unauthorized persons, it is claimed by one of the corporation's principal data providers.

Timeframe, which provides business information about retailers including Harrods and Bejam, says its company files were tampered with within 12 hours of new security codes being issued by British Telecom about three weeks ago after a previous breach of security. On that occasion the Duke of Edinburgh's electronic mail box containing congratulatory messages for the Princess of Wales on the birth of Prince Henry was broken into.

According to Mr Roy Norman, director of Timeframe: "It was chiefly done with the intention of showing that the security had been breached. It's not so much what they did but the potential. They could access confidential information and make damaging changes."

Mr Norman denies the theory that these electronic burglars, or "hackers", could have discovered his 18 digit code by trial and error.

He said: "Clearly therefore, we suggest, this points to a 'mole' within British Telecom Prestel headquarters. One of perhaps no more than half a dozen persons."

He added: "Is the system now secure? No, we do not think so."

Boys and girls come out at play

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Little girls are more serious than boys at least, during playtime. Then they like to talk about topics such as the miners, the Royal Family and kicking boys, whereas boys tell jokes, and discuss hairy men and werewolves.

This glimpse into topics of conversation in the nation's school playgrounds comes in a survey undertaken for BBC School Radio's *In the News* programme for nine to 12-year-olds. It found that boys were more likely to swear, fight, play football and talk about being pests than girls.

The survey, which was broadcast yesterday, and was based on 30,000 replies to a questionnaire which asked children what they did in the playground, confirms all the stereotypes held about the way boys and girls behave. The girls tended to spend their time hating and some of them said they would rather have no playtime at all.

However, both sexes said they were in the playground, with 7 per cent of girls and 19 per cent of boys saying they used bad language. Boys also drank more in the playground, probably because they ran around more, but the girls ate more and spent more money if there was a sweetshop near by.

Many of the boys - one in eight - admitted to scrounging food off other people, and one in 40 boys said they stole food from others. Boys also quarrelled more than girls.

The survey showed that football was the main playground activity, certainly for boys, of whom one-third said it was their main activity. The sexes differed in their attitude towards playtime, with half the boys keen to go out compared with one-third of the girls.

The survey concluded that the playground sounded a happy place. More than a third of children said they enjoyed the breaks, and only one child in eight said he or she was worried. Younger children were more likely to feel unhappy or lonely than older children.

Midland Bank joins weekend opening

By Richard Thomson

Midland Bank yesterday confirmed the other "big three" clearing banks in opening branches on Saturdays. It will become the first to offer a free banking service to its personal account customers.

Midland will levy no charges on accounts so long as they are kept in credit. But if an account dips into the red at any point during any three-month accounting period, charges are levied on the account for the whole of that period. Free banking will be introduced on December 10, but until then only accounts with more than £100 in credit are free of charges.

During next year Midland also plans to open 50 of its high

MPs lobbied in drug campaign

Dozens of children who have become the victims of accidents before they were born, were carried and wheeled into Westminster by their parents yesterday in a campaign for compensation from a drug company.

The parents claim that their children's malformations were caused by the morning sickness drug, Debendox. That claim is strenuously denied by the maker, Merrell Dow, in spite of company's decision to pay about £90 million over a period of years to 700 American

families, rather than contest their claims in court.

The British parents, who represent about 450 children, were lobbying their MPs yesterday. They are seeking support for their case against the company through action in the American and British courts.

One of them, Mrs Irene Gibson, of Sidcup, Kent, brought along her son, Steven, aged 14 months.

She said he has five missing ribs, suffers from spina bifida and curvature of the spine, has

only one kidney and has little movement in his left leg or foot. She added that she believed Debendox was the cause of her son's abnormalities.

However, the campaign for compensation by the Debendox action group has been described as "wholly misconceived" by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health.

He and others, including *The Lancet*, have argued that there is no scientific evidence linking the drug with the children's deformities.

Jewish Chronicle's protective action

By Tony Samstag

The *Jewish Chronicle* has changed its corporate structure in order to protect itself from possible takeover bids that might compromise its independence; its managing director said yesterday.

Mr Sidney Moss said a newly formed company, registered as a charity and to be called the Keseter Foundation, would hold all shares with voting rights, while the existing shares in the privately owned *Jewish Chronicle* company had been converted into non-voting ordinary shares. The transfer of voting control from the existing company, agreed at an extraordinary

general meeting, had been voluntary, he added.

Founded in London 143 years ago, the *Jewish Chronicle* claims to be the oldest Jewish newspaper in the world and to offer a "completely independent forum for all aspects of Anglo-Jewish life".

Bank set to sell car insurance

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Royal Bank of Scotland Group plans to break into the private car insurance market by selling policies direct to the public. It hopes to start next spring and aims to undercut the big insurance companies by cutting out insurance brokers.

"We aim to undercut the leaders in the market by about 10 per cent", Mr Geoffrey Naylor, group marketing adviser said yesterday. Mr Naylor said that the target was to attract a maximum of 100,000 customers in the first year of operation.

The group, which operates in England through its Williams & Glyn's subsidiary, has applied to the Department of Trade and Industry which regulates the insurance industry, for a licence. Although some of the big banks already have large insurance broking operations, few have yet ventured into the field of underwriting insurance, risks as the Royal Bank plans to do.

Besides cutting out the brokers network, thus saving commission, the Royal Bank expects to be able to provide cheaper service by channelling all the business through a highly-computerized operation at Croydon.

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Christmas trees hold their price

By Hugh Clayton

Christmas tree prices should be a little more this year than last year, the British Christmas Tree Growers' Association said yesterday.

Prices are likely to run from £1 a foot for trees bought from growers to £2 in shops. The association and the Forestry Commission agreed that there would be three million home-grown trees on the market and few imported ones. More people wanted real trees instead of plastic replicas, they said.

Many Christmas trees will die if they are planted in gardens too early in the new year, the association said yesterday.

Major General Tony Richardson, secretary of the association, explained that the keys to survival were the state of the roots and the timing of growth.

Guests cleared

Sussex police hunting the bombers of the Grand Hotel in Brighton said yesterday that they had traced two of the guests who stayed there under a false name before the IRA outrage and have eliminated them from their inquiries.

Protest to Moscow over visa ban on composer

By Our Arts Correspondent

The Arts Council has protested to the Soviet Embassy against Moscow's refusal to grant a temporary exit visa for the composer, Edson Denisov, to attend the premiere of his work, *The Blue Notebook*, in London on Wednesday.

The council commissioned Mr Denisov, one of Russia's leading composers, earlier this year. It was the first time a Soviet composer had been commissioned by the body, and came after council-sponsored tour of a Soviet jazz group.

The council had expected that Mr Denisov would be allowed to attend the premiere of the composition.

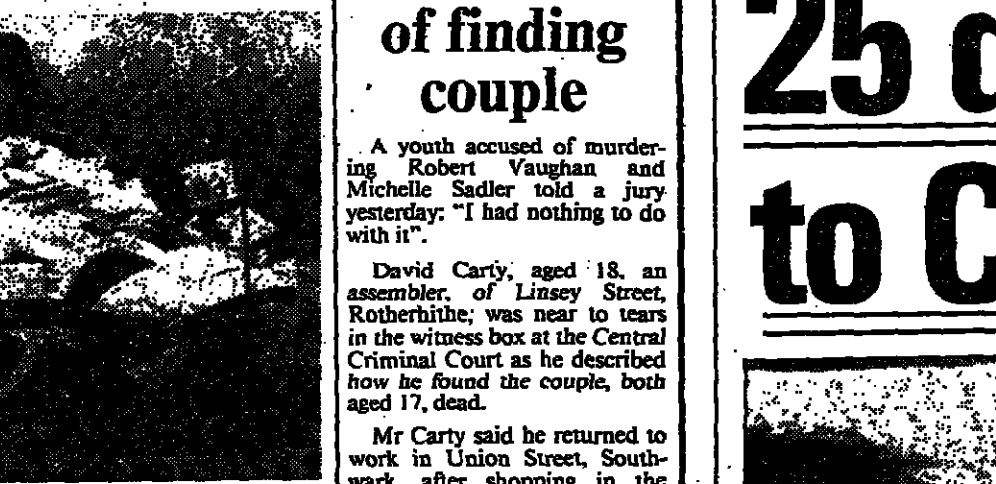
When it became clear that the Soviet authorities were hesitating about allowing Mr Denisov to leave the country, the council made approaches to the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock.

Sir William Rees-Mogg, chairman of the council, wrote to the Soviet ambassador, saying that the council was "deeply distressed" that the Soviet authorities had not been able to agree to the visit.



Five people escaped serious injury when this Metropolitan Police helicopter overturned, making a 100mph forced-landing on a British Aerospace airfield at Hatfield, Hertfordshire yesterday.

Five escape in helicopter crash



The Bell 222 police crime-fighting helicopter rolled over on landing after it was diverted to Hatfield during a routine patrol. A police spokesman said the pilot made a brilliant landing, saving the lives of his four passengers, who included a visiting American policeman.

The helicopter, piloted by Captain Robin Stubbs, was reported to have developed a fault in the rear rotor blade.

Second fine for having wild birds' eggs

Two unemployed men were yesterday fined for the second time in six months for possessing the eggs of protected wild birds. Coventry magistrates were told they were still paying off fines of £250 each, imposed in Scotland.

Yesterday Mark Lodlow, aged 18, of Armscott Road, Coventry, and Adam Rainley, aged 20, of Stratford Street, Coventry, admitted three summonses and were each fined £150 with £25 costs.

The summonses concerned the illegal possession of rare eggs protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 covering protected wildlife birds: the kestrel, heron, plover, falcon, tern and kingfisher.

The prosecution was brought by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, whose solicitor, Mr Stuart Young, said the men had been seen in Scotland collecting protected eggs and the investigation led to their homes in Coventry being searched.

The court ordered that they forfeit the eggs, an egg-blowing kit and records of bird sites.

Seat belts reducing deaths

By our Transport Editor

The wearing of seat belts was an important factor in the reduction of road deaths last year, according to the Department of Transport.

Its latest report on accidents shows there was an 8 per cent reduction in road deaths, and serious injuries among front-seat passengers reduced by 25 per cent last year.

The number of people wearing seat belts also rose to 95 per cent last year.

There were 5,445 road deaths last year which is the lowest since 1956 when road traffic levels were much lower.

Serious injuries fell 11 per cent to 70,623.

Road Accidents Great Britain 1983. (Stationery Office, £6.30).

Youth tells of finding couple

A youth accused of murdering Robert Vaughan and Michelle Sadler told a jury yesterday: "I had nothing to do with it."

David Carty, aged 18, an assembler, of Linsey Street, Rotherhithe, was near to tears in the witness box at the Central Criminal Court as he described how he found the couple, both aged 17, dead.

Mr Carty said he returned to work in Union Street, Southwark, after shopping in the West End, and discovered the bodies.

He has pleaded not guilty to murdering Robert Vaughan, who worked at the same design firm, and Michelle Sadler, a schoolgirl, on February 4.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Traffic record at Heathrow

Heathrow airport handled a record 28.7 million passengers in the year to the end of last month, beating its previous highest four years ago before the airline recession.

Domestic traffic growth led the way with a 19 per cent rise, followed by US traffic at 12 per cent and European at 10 per cent. Gatwick had an overall growth of 7.7 per cent, the British Airports Authority disclosed yesterday.

Wife accused of PC's murder

A woman who was married eight days ago appeared before Rotherham magistrates yesterday charged with the murder of her husband PC Patrick Durkin, aged 36, Diana Jade Durkin, aged 25, of Kilmhurst, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, was remanded in custody for seven days.

25 dying days to Christmas.



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By seaside on social security to be stopped

COMMONS

The increasing evidence of abuse of the board and lodging system by supplementary benefit claimants made it essential to move quickly to bring the expenditure under control, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, told the Commons in a statement.

The Government, he said, was determined to make sure that the supplementary benefit scheme was not abused or exploited. He was determined that the Government should no longer make unjustified board and lodging payments, if claimants do not need board and lodging accommodation or if the charges are too high, the supplementary benefit scheme will no longer pick up the bill.

Mr Fowler said: Supplementary benefit expenditure on board and lodging is escalating. During 1983 it rose from £205 million to £280 million a year. My latest information suggests that unless action is taken expenditure will grow by a further 50 per cent each year during 1984 and 1985. No responsible Government can allow expenditure to increase in this way unchecked.

As an immediate measure of cost control I laid before the House on November 22 regulations which will empower me to impose a temporary freeze on the existing local limits governing board and lodging payments. These regulations will be debated soon. They will be replaced by new arrangements which will come into operation in early 1985 following the consultative process.

There is particular concern about the growing number of young people receiving board and lodging payments, especially those spending long periods on benefit in seaside resorts. The number of such people aged 25 and under went up by 60 per cent during 1983.

The increasing evidence of abuse makes it essential to move quickly to bring ordinary board and lodging expenditure under control. As far as residential homes and nursing homes are concerned, I welcome the contribution which the many good establishments make. However, the present system of paying for such care under the supplementary benefit scheme does not discriminate adequately between homes for different types of resident or patient.

Furthermore, it is difficult to see why the charges for residential care homes for the elderly and supplementary benefit claimants should vary from £51 in one part of the country to £215 in another. We must move to a system

in which there is less variation throughout the country.

My consultative document proposes several changes. The responsibility for setting the maximum amounts of benefit payable will be transferred to ministers. For ordinary board and lodging accommodation the existing locally-determined limits will be replaced by two new limits - one for the Greater London area and another for the rest of the country. I am also proposing limiting the eligibility of 16 and 17-year-olds to claim board and lodging payments in their own right.

We shall also prevent young people setting up unnecessarily in long-term board and lodging accommodation. But we shall safeguard the position of the genuine job seeker.

In the residential care and nursing home sector I am proposing a new structure of national limits for payments. These new limits will be designed to reflect the varying cost of providing different types of care. There is no question, however, of elderly, handicapped or disabled people being moved out of their existing accommodation and their position will be protected.

At the same time, I am proposing that attendance allowance should be taken into account in assessing claims for supplementary benefit from people in private and voluntary residential care and nursing homes.

Subject to the process of consultation I have mentioned, I propose bringing regulations before

the House in February next year with a view to implementing new arrangements in April 1985. I shall be monitoring the new arrangements closely after implementation and will not hesitate to produce further changes if they seem necessary. I shall also be considering alternative approaches in the light of the current review of the supplementary benefit scheme.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Oppo-

sition spokesman on health and social security (Oldham West, Lab.) said: The Government had been guilty of reckless folly in pursuing a policy of privatization of residential and nursing care at the taxpayer's expense which got completely out of hand.

As a result of this private development bonanza total board and lodging charges underwritten by his department, which were £205m in 1982, had now skyrocketed to £280m according to the Government's own figures, to about £507m.

This colossal increase of £365m had largely been pocketed by private operators who had used every fiddle in the book to push up charges.

What was the implication of the new restrictions to be placed on the under-25s moving into board and lodging that they would be expected to remain at home, subsidized by their parents? If they could not or would not, would they not be forced into squatting, sleeping rough or on to the homeless circuit?

Mr Fowler said that the growth in the number of young claimants was continuing rapidly and disproportionately. The Government believed it was sensible to check it.

It is (he went on) not only on financial grounds. Those are great enough, but also it is important to the public that it brings the social security system into disrepute.

Private and voluntary residential provision substantially increased under the last Labour Government. He would have hoped they would agree that they wanted to see a good private sector and standards in it maintained. None of them wanted to see claimants abusing the system.

Mr Humphrey Malles (Croydon North West, C): One of the problems is that landlords who cram families into hostels and get large payments from the DHSS make extortionate profits.

Because there is no requirement to inspect these hostels and hotels, landlords are crowding a husband, a wife and one or two children into one room measuring 12ft by 15ft.

Mr Fowler agreed and said that was why the Government was looking at the supplementary benefit review would consider bringing in individual checks on the value of the accommodation and whether or not the applicants needed it.

Mr Michael Howard (Folkestone and Hythe, C): His measures will be warmly welcomed, not least in seaside resorts to which young people travel not in search of work but in search of leisure at the expense of the taxpayer.

Mr Fowler: I have been impressed by the amount of letters and representations on the position in seaside resorts.

Mr John Butterfill (Bournemouth

West, C): The statement will be particularly welcomed in my constituency where we have had a positive foundation of young people who are in bed and breakfast accommodation.

For example, it is estimated that there 2,500 from the Liverpool area alone, many of whom, sadly, are in activities connected with drugs, and that is most alarming for the population.

Mr Fowler: He is correct and it underlines the reason why it is important to act. We have seen the most astonishing growth of provision with young people basically taking up residence for three or six months in some seaside resorts. It is not what the supplementary benefit system was designed for.

Mr David Harris (St Ives, C): His announcement of a clampdown on this undoubted social evil will receive a warm welcome in Cornwall where the invasion this summer was of young people clearly there, in many cases, not to seek work but to get a prolonged holiday at the taxpayers' expense.

Mr Fowler: We will do everything we can in the regulations we are proposing to tackle the abuse and we will keep the whole situation under review so that new abuses do not spring up.

Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North, Lab.): He has made a disgraceful attack on the unemployed. He is seeking to blame young people for there not being enough jobs.

Mr Fowler: This is not an attack on the unemployed. If we do not tackle abuses in the social security system the system itself and its reputation will go into decline with the public generally.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Warrington, Lab.): What savings do the Government intend to make?

Mr Fowler: Savings will be probably £70 million in the next financial year.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet South, C): Will he confirm that no genuine home-keeper or bona fide nursing home owner has anything to fear from his statement?

Mr Fowler: Yes, I entirely confirm that point. What we are about is rooting out abuse, whether by the provider or the user.

Mr Harold McCusker (Upper Bann, DUP), who had asked for Provisional Sinn Fein to be proscribed, said that Mr Hurd's answer would disappoint many people in the Province, particularly in the light of comments made by the organization's leaders in the aftermath of the Brighton bomb outrage.

Mr Hurd: The practical difficulties of enforcing proscription would be great and the propaganda advantage to the IRA would be very great.

The Rev Ian Paisley (Antrim North, DUP), an officer in some areas are synonymous. Why ban the main organization when Mr Hurd is not prepared to ban a section of it?

Mr Hurd: People who commit illegal acts are liable to prosecution whatever organization they belong to.

Mr Merilyn Bees, a former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Leeds South and Morley, Lab): His right to ban organizations which are overtly paramilitary, carry weapons or kill and murder. It was I who de-proscribed Sinn Fein and other organizations and I agree fully with Mr Hurd.

Kinnock in clash over cuts of £340m

REGIONAL AID

If Mr Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition, wanted to create more jobs he should stop supporting the miners' strike, Mrs Thatcher the Prime Minister told the Commons during question time.

The duel between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnock centred on Wednesday's announcement on regional policy. Mr Kinnock said the positive foundation of young people who are in bed and breakfast accommodation.

For example, it is estimated that there 2,500 from the Liverpool area alone, many of whom, sadly, are in activities connected with drugs, and that is most alarming for the population.

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Thatcher says UK grants still the most generous in the world

EDUCATION

Britain had the most generous system of student grants in the world, (Renewed Labour shouts). The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill): When the Prime Minister answers questions I cannot hear her and nor can anyone else.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party: Given today's disgraceful unemployment figures, how does she expect students to find part-time jobs, as recommended by the Secretary of State for Education, to finance their education?

Mrs Thatcher: Many of them do, as Mr Steel knows. In addition to the £700 million which most taxpayers find towards student grants, there is an extra amount by housing benefit and for supplementary benefit amounting to £100 million.

Mr Robert Banks (Harrogate, C): On the demonstration last night on Westminster Bridge, the organizers not only caused enormous irritation and inconvenience to the general public but helped to prevent emergency services, doctors, surgeons and ambulances getting to the people whose lives could have been at risk. Should not the fines in the courts reflect the gravity of the demonstration?

Mrs Thatcher: It was a disgraceful demonstration, stopping traffic, ambulances and fire engines. It undermined any sympathy some people might have for the students.

No students anywhere in the world are treated more generously than in this country. In Sweden and Japan there are loans. In many other countries there are part loans and part grants.

Ours are the most generous grants anywhere in the world. That kind of demonstration undermines those of us who are keen on giving them.

Later, during business questions, Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, was warned that some Conservative MPs might not support the Government on its proposed changes to student grants.

Mr Patrick Cormack (South Staffordshire, C): Unless there is a full statement from the Secretary of State for Education and Science, some of us might find it difficult to support the Government on Thursday (when there is a Commons debate on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement from which flowed the proposals).

Mr Biffen: I only hope he informs his Whips privately, as he does me publicly. (Laughter).

Mr Harry Greenwood (Ealing North, C): He says reports that one in three British Telecom share applications forms were filled in incorrectly. Will he arrange for the Secretary of State for Education and Science at an early stage to answer calls from this side of the House to reduce student grants, since the level of education needs to be kept up? (Laughter).

Mr Biffen: That is very good.

Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton North, C): We have a majority for the Autumn Statement, but no majority at all in this House for the ill-thought-out proposals on part-time students. Would it not be sensible to have a separate debate on this issue, so that it can be considered before it causes an immense amount of damage?

Pointless to train people for yesterday's skills

TRAINING

Strong criticisms of the Manpower Services Commission's proposal to close 29 of 87 skill centres by 1986 were made in the Commons by the Opposition following a statement by the Mr. Tom Egan, the Secretary of State for Employment. He said the proposals would be considered by the Commission at their next meeting on December 13.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said, the commission had put these proposals forward simply to meet the cash limits imposed upon them by this Government. Areas north of the Trent were to carry an extra

burden, once again exposing the two-nation policies of this Government.

It is about time (he said) the so-called experts in this Government, including Mr King used their political muscle to reverse this Government's policy of de-skilling the nation and driving it into ever-increasing unemployment.

Mr King: The Government is doubling the provision for training. What the nation has to do is face up to the rapidly changing circumstances. The MSC is charged with ensuring it is training people for the real needs of the future, where real jobs are going to be. This is why we need to face up to the need for new skills. It is no good training people for yesterday's skills.

Trident costs threaten conventional forces

DEFENCE

An in-depth study had been launched into the decline in merchant shipping to discover if Britain could continue to meet its naval obligations to NATO, Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, announced when opening the Commons debate on the Royal Navy in the Commons.

The Department of Transport and the Department of Defence hoped to complete the study in the middle of next year.

Mr Stanley said this was a result of concern expressed by the Commons Select Committee on Defence if the decline in the merchant marine continued.

At present Britain could meet its NATO obligations, he added, but it might not be able to if the decline continued for several more years.

The order for the first of the Trident SSBNs was currently out to tender. It had now been settled that the refitting of the Trident submarines would be carried out at Rosyth.

The Government's commitment to the Trident missile programme did not stem from dogma, history or fixation, but from a cool, rational and dispassionate assessment of Britain's defence needs and priorities in the world of the 1990s and beyond.

That world looked like being no safer from nuclear blackmail than the 1960s and 1970s, when previous governments of all complexions decided it was right to maintain Britain's strategic nuclear deterrent and to modernize it at very considerable cost.

There was no scale of conventional retaliation that offered any real deterrent to nuclear blackmail now that the Soviet Union had such a massive nuclear armory.

The Government had committed to the Trident programme it put to the electorate last year.

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff South and Penarth, Lab): In the estimates the cost of Trident was based on an exchange rate of 1.53 US dollars to the pound. Now it is 1.20 dollars. That obviously increases the cost substantially.

Given the Government's firm adherence to Trident, can he assure us that the additional cost will be borne in any circumstances no matter what the exchange rate, and further, this will be done without cost to the conventional navy and the rest of the navy vote? If so, how is it going to be borne?

Mr Stanley: Something approaching half the cost of the Trident programme is in dollars.

Next week's business

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday and Tuesday: Local Government Bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Debate on Government's intention to sign a draft agreement on the future of Hong Kong.

Thursday: Debate on motion to approve the Chancellor's autumn statement.

Friday: Debate on private member's motion on tourism.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Motion on Okehampton bypass compulsory purchase order.

Debate on the Kilbrandon report on Northern Ireland.

Tuesday: Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill, committee and Family Law (Scotland) Bill, committee. Debate on St Helena.

Wednesday: Debate on the Civil Service.

Thursday: Food and Environment Protection Bill, committee.

Benn attacked over picket line violence

COAL DISPUTE

Mrs Thatcher's attempts to crush and to criminalize all opposition to the coal dispute were being exposed in pre-war Germany, Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) said during question time in the Commons. The Prime Minister replied that Mrs Benn and the Opposition should see that violence on the picket line was stopped.

Mr Benn asked whether the Prime Minister knew of the case of Mrs Brenda Greenwood, the first miner's wife to be thrown in prison for voicing her opposition to pit closures.

Mrs Thatcher: This country has a totally independent system of the rule of law. (Some Labour laughter). I would have hoped - if it was not for the common hope - that one day the Opposition might totally condemn violence and see that violence on the picket line is stopped.

From the fact that they do not, we shall draw our own conclusions as to their wish to continue the strike by that method.

Mr Ray Powell (Ogmore, Lab): We have read a lot this week on Mrs Thatcher's speech to the Carlton Club on Monday night (Conservative cheer) regarding the upholding of the law of the land and the rule of law. (More Conservative cheer).

Would she explain why she allows the courts to apply the Employment Act with harsh, obscene, aquatation of trade union funds and the law of this country is imperially administered. The people of the courts are servants of the law, not of the Tories.

Mrs Thatcher: He would have profited if he had read the lecture fully. He might have learnt that the law of this country is imperially administered. The people of the courts are servants of the law, not of the Tories.

Mr Biffen: Those who fought for parliamentary liberties in the seventeenth century did not do it by reverting to rent-a-mob tactics (Conservative cheer).

Mr Giles Shaw, Minister of State, Home Office, in a Commons written reply, said that between March 13 and November 27, some 8,394 arrests were made.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, in another reply, said that according to information supplied by the Lord Chancellor, the Crown Court had been notified of the commitment of 165 defendants in cases identified as directly arising out of the mining dispute and had dealt with 31 of them.

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Prosecution change from October 1986

LEGAL

The new crown prosecution service should be fully operational in England and Wales from October 1986 Lord Elton, Minister of State, Home Office, said in giving the second reading debate in the House of Lords on the Prosecution of Offences Bill.

In the six police force areas covered by the metropolitan county councils, he said, the Government proposed to bring in the service as the successful bodies took over in April 1986.

The Bill to establish an independent prosecution service for England and Wales, to give the Attorney General power to refer Crown Court sentences to the Court of Appeal - not for revision but for comment - and to enable limits to be imposed on the time taken to bring criminal cases to trial.

Those were three important innovations, he said. The first offered a fundamental reform of the prosecution service. That was not a rebuke to those at present responsible for criminal prosecutions, but to strike a balance between the needs and rights of society as a whole and the needs and rights of private citizens suspected or accused of crime.

A white paper would be published shortly detailing how this was to be established at a national level.

The new service was likely to take 2,500 civil servants to run. The transfer of work from local government to the Crown Prosecution Service would permit a saving of 1,700 civilian staff but they were expected to transfer into the new service.

Government seeking closer links with Eire

ULSTER

The Government was hoping for closer and more effective co-operation between the UK and the Irish Republic and, within Northern Ireland, it was doing its best to encourage those elected to represent the different traditions there to come together and show that the institutions of the province were there to serve all its inhabitants.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

He was answering Mrs Clare Short (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab) who had asked him to admit that the only policy the Government had for Northern Ireland was to try desperately to keep the lid on it.

Mr Hurd said her description of Government policy was a travesty and she could not have read the summit meeting or what had been said since.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) asked: Does he now appreciate the immense harm caused to Anglo-Irish relations by the remarks made by the Prime Minister after her meeting with the Irish Prime Minister? Would it not be wise for her and the Secretary of State, who is new to the job, to realise the need for sensitivity in these matters?

If mainstream Irish nationalism is treated with contempt, the only gainers will be the Provisional IRA.

Mr Hurd: The Prime Minister has already answered that question, the process of regular discussion and consultation between the two governments is the giving and taking of advice, is very useful and

important for all of us concerned with Northern Ireland.

Mr Andrew Boydman (Brighton, Kerington, C): Will he ignore the characteristically unhelpful comments of Mr Winnick and confirm that, while the three proposals in the Forum report are not acceptable to the vast majority of the people of Northern Ireland, there is an opportunity for a unique relationship between the two and ourselves without in any way impinging on the spirit or the letter of the constitutional guarantee?

Mr Hurd: I think he has it exactly right. The report was a stimulating one and there is a lot of common ground revealed in it on issues of consent and violence. Much has been said of the three possible solutions in the report but it left the door open for other possibilities.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, (Warrley West, Lab): Has he grasped the catastrophic change in atmosphere which has taken place since the summit where parties previously prepared to talk and exchange proposals are now expressing only bitterness and frustration and everyone is adding their three-pennyworth of petrol to the fire?

The gross insensitivity of the Prime Minister following the summit meeting does not give any reason to hope for anything better from the February summit.

Mr Hurd: Regarding the February summit, there is work to be done along the lines I have indicated - although not altering the constitutional status of the province - on which we need the cooperation of the Irish Republic. For the rest, I would not agree with what he said.

Hurd rejects proscription of Sinn Fein

PROSCRIPTION

Proscription of Provisional Sinn Fein would not be the right course at present but the Government would keep this under close review and would not hesitate to use the power if the circumstances warranted it.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions.

Absence of proscription, he added, conferred no immunity on any individual members who committed terrorist offences.

Mr Harold McCusker (Upper Bann, DUP), who had asked for Provisional Sinn Fein to be proscribed, said that Mr Hurd's answer would disappoint many people in the Province, particularly in the light of comments made by the organization's leaders in the aftermath of the Brighton bomb outrage.

Mr Hurd: The practical difficulties of enforcing proscription would be great and the propaganda advantage to the IRA would be very great.

The Rev Ian Paisley (Antrim North, DUP), an officer in some areas are synonymous. Why ban the main organization when Mr Hurd is not prepared to ban a section of it?

Mr Hurd: People who commit illegal acts are liable to prosecution whatever organization they belong to.

Mr Merilyn Bees, a former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Leeds South and Morley, Lab): His right to ban organizations which are overtly paramilitary, carry weapons or kill and murder. It was I who de-proscribed Sinn Fein and other organizations and I agree fully with Mr Hurd.

If we take you along to Hong Kong, for a little bit more you can see Singapore.

We offer far more to the Far East than any other airline. Our Super Club fares to most Far Eastern cities let you visit another one at little or no extra cost.

British Airways

The world's favourite airline.

Quality of BBC TV programmes threatened by soaring costs

By David Hewson

The soaring cost of television production is threatening the quality of the BBC's programmes, the corporation's annual report said yesterday.

Increasing costs were a matter of growing concern, with budget stringency threatening the creativity of programme makers, the corporation, which is discussing a new licence fee of around £67 a year with the Home Office said.

"It was necessary to cut back on some of the most expensive production areas, such as drama, and intensify the search for co-production funds from outside sources, which in recent years have made possible a higher standard and scale of output in drama, in the arts and in major documentary series than we could have achieved from the licence fee cash-flow alone."

The report said that it would be wrong not to record a growing impatience with the restraints holding back the brightest creative talents within the BBC from the levels of excellence of which they believe themselves capable.

This impatience was aggravated by critical comparisons made with ITV, not over the commercial network's whole output but "with its single particularly brilliant but very expensive production", a reference to the rumour about the BBC's decision to show the American serial *Thorn Birds* at the same time that Granada was

showing its much acclaimed production *The Jewel In The Crown*.

Of *Thorn Birds*, the report says, "the series was much criticized for wooden stereotyping of many characters, for thin writing and implausible melodrama, and for its placing in the schedules. Some Roman Catholics were shocked. Some non-Catholics considered the whole enterprise Catholic propaganda. But the series had a narrative drive that proved compulsive. It drew enormous audiences, and they hugely enjoyed each episode."

Mr Stuart Young, the BBC's chairman, says, in the foreword, that the corporation's first concern must be to maintain and improve the standards of existing output and to get the best possible value for money from the licence fee. The corporation had taken a lead in the debate on new broadcasting developments, such as cable and satellite.

"But we should proceed with caution," Mr Young writes. "New challenges cannot be allowed to jeopardize a system built up over 60 years; a system which offers a range and standard of programming acknowledged to be the best in the world."

In the year under review, April 1983 to March 31, 1984, broadcasting in hours in both radio and television had increased by 13.9 per cent. At the same time, staff had risen by 1.8 per cent.



Before and after: The renovation of this terrace in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, has won a Civic Trust award.

Village preservation trust wins conservation award

By Richard Dowden

A terrace on Market Street, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, that was restored by the village's Preservation Trust has won one of the Civic Trust's awards announced today.

The buildings had been under threat of demolition for

10 years and were empty and in danger of collapse. They were bought by the local trust and renovated and now house four shops with maisonettes above.

The trust's report said that the property was of no great architectural value but occupied a key position in the town and

that its restoration "contributes to a splendid piece of intimate townscape".

Other awards went to Rochester for improvements to the High Street; the Vicar's Close at Wells; the landscaping of Keldor Water; the new reservoir in Northumberland; and the National Coal Board's

Wistow site in the Selby coalfields. There were 23 awards and 137 commendations.

Announcing the awards, Mr Michael Middleton, director of the Civic Trust, said that Britain was not getting the environment it deserved or that it could easily have.

He said: "We all of us like the results when they are good, but too often lack the toughness to insist that standards be the highest attainable."

The Civic Trust is a charity which aims to stimulate interest and action for the conservation and improvement of town and country.

Study into information released by universities

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

A study of the information released by universities on their finances, staff and student numbers, and degrees obtained is to be carried out by Coopers and Lybrand, management consultants, as part of an efficiency study into the universities.

Specifically excluded from their remit will be details labelled "political" such as national needs for graduates, population trends and information on the nature and content of teaching, research and other academic work.

The efficiency inquiry, chaired by Sir Alex Jarratt, chairman of Reed International and Chancellor of Birmingham University, was set up in March this year after Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, put pressure on the universities for a Rayner-style inquiry.

After some negotiation they set up an independent inquiry under the auspices of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. A number of studies are being carried out at Edinburgh, Essex, Loughborough, Sheffield, and Nottingham universities and University College London.

Financial management is being examined at Edinburgh and University College London; purchasing at Essex and Sheffield; and maintenance and servicing of buildings at Loughborough and Nottingham.

The general data study being conducted by Coopers and Lybrand will look at a representative sample of universities, Cambridge, Manchester, Sussex, Warwick and Heriot-Watt.

Change in Parliament Act

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Queen has agreed that the Government should repeal a 187-year-old statutory provision under which the death of the monarch could cancel or nullify a general election.

Under the terms of the Meeting of Parliament Act of 1797, passed in the reign of George III, "a demise of the Crown" during the month-long period between the end of one Parliament and the beginning of the next would either force the cancellation of an election or nullify its results.

During discussions with

party leaders, the Home Office provided examples of what would have happened last year. If the Queen had died after the dissolution of Parliament on May 13,

If she had died before polling day on June 9, the election would have been cancelled and the old Parliament would have reconvened for a maximum period of six months from the date of her death.

If she had died after polling day and before June 15, the date set for the new Parliament to meet, the results of the election

would have been ignored. If she had died between June 15 and June 21, before the new Parliament was formally opened, then the new Parliament could have met and sat.

But its life would have been limited to just six months.

It is now proposed under the new Representation of the People Bill that "where the demise occurs at any time after the proclamation is given, and before the date of the poll", the election and subsequent meeting of Parliament should simply be delayed by a fortnight.

NHS prescriptions will exclude 400 drugs

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government will exclude 400 drugs and preparations from prescription on the National Health Service when it introduces in April its limited list of drugs for home cures, pain relief, and anxiety and insomnia, according to an internal Department of Health and Social Services memorandum.

A copy of the list, published in *General Practitioner*, shows that 89 different drugs or formulations will be excluded for treatment of mild to moderate pain, leaving family doctors able to prescribe only aspirin or paracetamol preparations on the NHS.

Fifty different brands or formulations of tranquilizers and sedatives will be excluded, leaving just three non-brand preparations.

Patients who want the brand or excluded drugs will have to pay for them on a private prescription, or buy them over the counter if they are available

Pensions plan may breach law

The Government's plans for personal portable pensions may well breach EEC law, the Equal Opportunities Commission said yesterday.

The Commission said that as he proposals stand, employers could make lower contributions for women than for men, and that even if the same contributions were made, women could face pensions up to a third lower than men because of their longer life expectancy.

Under European law, the Commission said, men and women must receive equal pay or equal work, with "pay" interpreted widely to include any other consideration in cash or in kind.

"There is a serious risk that one of the Government's proposals, if implemented as they stand, would involve a breach of European Community law."

It also strongly criticized the government's opinion poll on pensions which ministers have used to argue there is widespread support for personal pensions.

Of two groups of 840 people and 195 people questioned, the 0 per cent support for personal pensions was found only in the smaller sample.

Big stores traded illegally

Three of Britain's largest chain store companies were yesterday fined for Sunday and late night trading. Sainsbury, Safeway and Woolworth admitted selling prohibited goods, including tin foil, eggs and washing powder, outside legal shopping hours.

Safeway and Europa Foods, both of Kensington High Street, and Sainsbury, of the West London air terminal, all admitted trading after 8 pm on August 29 and were each fined £50 with £25 costs. Woolworth and Waterstones Ltd, were each fined £100 with £25 costs after they admitted trading on Sunday, September 2.

Seven-day society, page 10

Striking off

The solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal yesterday ordered that Mr Stanford Russell Cowan, of Derrington, Stafford, be struck off the roll of solicitors for using money held on behalf of clients and other unbecoming conduct.

Dublin 'helirail'

A "helirail" service is to start between Holyhead and Dublin on April 3. The flight will take 30 minutes compared with the ferry time of nearly four hours.

Two editors cleared over photographs

Editors of two newspapers did not act improperly in publishing photographs, one of a man who fell to his death and the other of a burned boy, the House of Commons ruled today.

In the first case, the council ruled that it was not improper for an editor to publish an intensely newsworthy picture of a crowded market place showing a man who had fallen or jumped to his death and another injured by his fall.

The council rejected a complaint by Miss M. V. Mitchell, of Paignton, Devon, that it was improper for the *Mid-Devon Express* to publish a picture showing the face of a man who died in a fall, causing unnecessary distress to his family and friends.

Miss Mitchell complained to the editor that all normal, decent folk paid their respects

to the dead in a compassionate way. She suggested that never before had a deceased person's face been shown in a British newspaper.

In the second ruling, the council said an editor who published a front page picture of a badly burned boy falling to his death did not act improperly.

The council rejected a complaint by Dr Gillian Mayes, of the department of psychology at Glasgow University, that it was distasteful and improper for the *Evening Times*, Glasgow, to publish the photograph.

Mr George McKeechie, said that when the picture arrived he and senior executives considered whether it should be published on the front page or an inside page. With hindsight he might feel the picture would have been more suited to an inside page.

Divorce for Baroness Thyssen

A love affair between Baroness Thyssen, aged 63, the multi-millionaire, and a former beauty queen was "intolerable" as far as his wife was concerned, Justice Eastham said in the family division of the High Court yesterday.

He awarded the Brazilian-born baroness, who is 43, a divorce decree.

After hearing brief evidence from the baroness, the judge said he was satisfied that the 17-year marriage had broken down irretrievably because of the baroness's adultery. He had admitted adultery with Carmen Leira, the Spanish-born widow of Lex Barker, the actor known for his roles as Tarzan.

"The baroness has told me there is no future in this marriage and she would find it intolerable to live with the baron. On that basis I pronounce a decree nisi", the judge said.

Heart surgeons carry out 100th transplant

Surgeons yesterday carried out their hundredth heart transplant operation at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge.

The patient, a woman in her 50s from Sefton, Lancashire, was conscious and had a visit from her husband within 10 hours of her transplant.

Although only 96 people have had the operation since the programme began five years ago, four have been given new hearts. Of the 96, who include three who had combined heart and lung transplants, 65 are alive.

Of the heart-lung patients, two have been released from Papworth while the third, Mrs Christine Dart, from Lincoln, continues to make good progress after her operation three weeks ago.

The longest surviving is Mr Keith Castle, aged 57, who had a heart transplant in August, 1979.

With today's criminals, it's more grey cells we need.

Much of London's crime gives every appearance of having been committed by mindless morons.

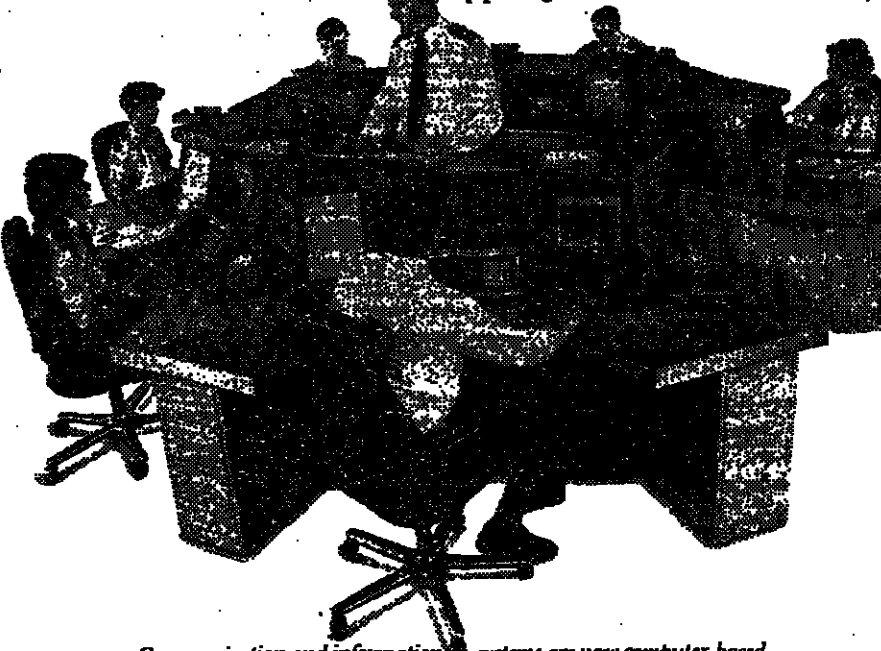
By contrast, some financial frauds are so complex, it takes some of our top brains months to unravel them.

Whichever end of the scale we're dealing with, a quick chase and an armlock isn't always the solution.

In our opinion, it's infinitely better to be one step ahead of the criminal rather than a couple of paces behind.

Brainpower or Manpower?

These days, we place a lot more emphasis on intelligence and keen observation work. This applies just as much to the bobby



Communication and information systems are now computer-based.

on the beat as it does to the special units we have specifically formed for the task.

Like the criminal fraternity, we're always on the lookout for new ideas we can turn to our advantage.

The Neighbourhood Watch Schemes that are proving to be so successful are just one example.

Micro-chip technology is another. A lot of routine investigation is now done by computer; tracing fingerprints, checking on stolen cars, cross-referencing information to find a common link - that sort of thing.

The traffic in central London would be even more of a nightmare if it weren't largely computer controlled.

Our central Command and Control complex and the communication links with local police stations have all been computerised, too.

In short, the Met is a very sophisticated machine. And it runs on brain power as much as manpower.

Who needs brains on the beat?

Now more than ever, you need a bit more under your helmet than a neat haircut.

You might have to come between a wife-basher and his nearest and dearest.

You might be the first on the scene of a serious accident.

You might have to crawl onto a roof with a suicidal lady who wants to throw both of you into the street below.

Even facing a mugger with a knife requires a bit of quick thinking before you put your self-defence training to the test.

Most people would say you'd have to be barmy to do it. The reverse is nearer the truth.

A police officer's job calls for someone with a lot of common sense and a very level head indeed.

You can't be over-qualified.

The sort of qualifications we look for are at least five good 'O' levels. But if you happen to have a couple of 'A' levels or a degree, so much the better.

They'll help you go further, faster.

Everyone starts on the beat and anyone with ambition can go just as far as their ability or inclination will take them.

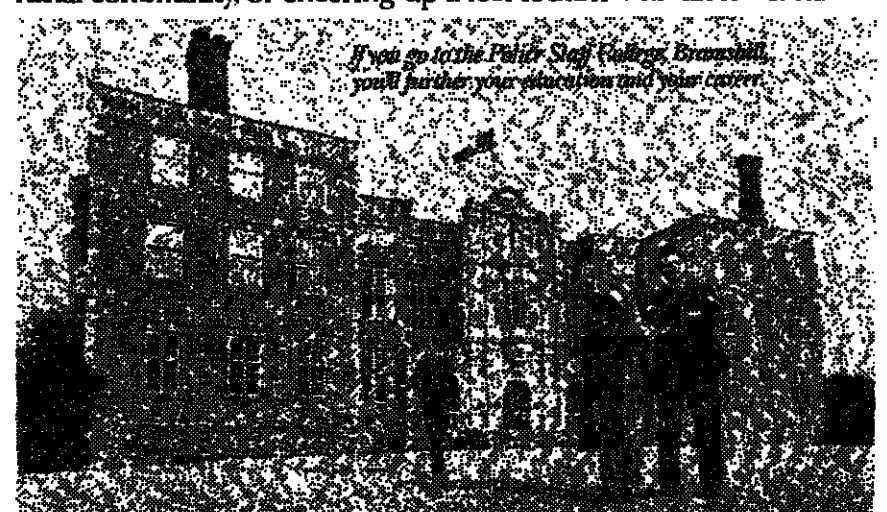
Raw recruit to Inspector in under five years is not unknown. As you can imagine, competition is fierce.

Rest assured though, if you've got enough up top, that's where you're going to end up.

What's the reward?

In the Met, you'll have to do things others wouldn't do for any amount of money.

On the other hand, what could match the satisfaction of putting away a really nasty villain, helping to reduce the tensions in a multi-racial community, or cheering-up a lost toddler with an ice-cream?



In hard cash, the very least you'll start on at 18½ (our minimum age) is £8,520, including a London allowance.

If you're a bit more mature, you'll be better equipped for the task. So over 22's start on more.

And for anyone with aspirations in that direction, a newly promoted Chief Inspector takes home a basic salary of £16,425. On a par with any manager outside the Met.

You'll have to be at least 172 cms tall if you're a man, or 168 cms for a woman. The Selection Board will see whether you measure up or not.

If you want further information, phone (01) 725 4575.

Write to The Appointments Officer, Careers Information Centre, Dept MD603, New Scotland Yard, London SW1H 0BC.

Or visit us at our Careers Information Office in Victoria Street.

Kohl to press Reagan for a stronger Nato at Washington summit

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Arms control, East-West relations and Europe's hopes for strengthening of Nato will be the main themes of talks which Chancellor Kohl begins today with President Reagan in the first visit to Washington by a European leader since the President's re-election.

Herr Kohl will underline his country's warm welcome for the resumption of Soviet-American arms talks, but will try to ensure that German and indeed West European interests are not neglected.

He and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, will seek in their meetings with the President, Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, to harmonize various strategic initiatives and clarify Nato policies such as the Rogers plan for follow-on forces attack and air-land battle.

The German side will express its support, underlined yesterday by the Christian Democratic arms expert, for the five-year research programme into space-based defence proposed by President Reagan.

A particularly important issue for the Bonn, however, is the inclusion of medium-range missiles in Europe in the

umbrella arms talks Washington will begin with Moscow next year.

Trading on his credit built up during West Germany's unwavering commitment last year to deploy the new missiles, Herr Kohl will press hard for this issue to be given priority. Bonn is not expecting a freeze on the deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles, but would not rule this out if it was a result of wider negotiations.

A clear German influence in formulating American strategy at any renewed Geneva talks would be a vital boost to the Chancellor at a time when he is being accused at home of having little influence in Washington and when Bonn's own policies towards Eastern Europe are in some disarray.

On Alliance strategy, Herr Kohl will not attempt to speak for Europe as a whole, although he may seek American support for the strengthening of the Western European Union. He wants to convince the Reagan Administration that his Government at least is ready to strengthen conventional forces.

Some circles here, however, are balking at the bigger burdens Washington has been urging on Bonn, and do not want the Chancellor to give his

hosts a carte blanche. In return, Herr Kohl will be seeking closer German-American co-ordination and consultation.

Herr Kohl enjoys good personal relations with President Reagan and is making much of the fact that he is the first allied visitor in the President's second term. But Bonn has pressed hard for this invitation, and Washington does not appear to see much significance in it.

The Americans, with memories of Watergate, will want to know how much Herr Kohl is politically handicapped at home by recent scandals, particularly the Flick affair, which has received widespread publicity in the United States.

Before setting off yesterday, Herr Kohl met the Soviet Ambassador here to discuss Moscow's readiness for new arms talks and was given a written outline of Soviet proposals for the development of East-West relations.

Commentators have been advising against over-optimistic hopes - which Germans have fallen victims to in the past - of a rapid improvement in East-West relations.

Leading article, page 13

Jaruzelski 'at war with his own police'

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Jacek Kuron, one of Poland's most outspoken dissidents, said yesterday that General Jaruzelski was at war with his own police force, but that was no reason for the Polish people to let up pressure on the beleaguered leader.

Mr Kuron's statements came in a lengthy analysis of the political implications of the murder by secret policemen of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity priest.

The comments published in the latest issue of the clandestine weekly *Tygodnik Miedzynarodowy*, are in marked contrast to the calm impression given by the general at a news conference on Wednesday night for Western and Soviet bloc participants at an international media congress in Warsaw.

But in many respects the general and his main opponent, Mr Kuron, seem to be in accord.

At the conference, the general admitted: "Objectively, this crime has done a lot of harm to us... (but) I think that all people who have a bit of common sense and goodwill have noticed how, in a firm and unequivocal way, the Polish authorities have responded to this shameful act with what energy and firmness we have carried out the whole operation of discovering the culprits."

Of the men behind the killing, the general said: "We don't know, we don't know them. We would like to find them if there are any." Mr Kuron, who gives the general credit for his candour about the murders of the priest, is less bashful about naming names.

"A certain political group, which has the police apparatus under its control, stood behind this (murder) in order to gain direct influence over General Jaruzelski and therefore gain more control over personnel policy, governing privileges, the distribution of power and all the things that are usually fought for."

Mr Kuron emphasized that the Polish people should not stop putting pressure on the general, "but in a way which would not force the authorities to resort to terror."

Other points made at General Jaruzelski's news conference, his first with selected representatives of the Western press since becoming Prime Minister in February 1981, were:

● *Ostpolitik* had become a "fiasco" under the present Bonn administration. But he would still welcome a visit, postponed earlier this month, by the West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

● Relations with the Roman Catholic Church were "correct", though certain radical priests were still not "respecting the principle of the division of church and state".

● President Reagan's economic sanctions had made the communist countries cooperate more closely. "Nobody with such certainty made the socialist countries realize that they have to cooperate with one another closer and more consistently," President Reagan should receive a medal of merit, he said.

Deployment of cruise to continue

From Ian Murray, Brussels

There is no question of the United States suspending deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe simply because of the planned meeting between Mr George Shultz, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, a senior American Nato source said yesterday.

Speaking before next week's meeting of Alliance defence ministers here, he said no such proposals would even be discussed. "There is not any Alliance leader who thinks that the Soviets should be rewarded for returning to the negotiating table to talk about talks."

He did, however, expect Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, to tell the meeting that there had been a marked increase in deployment of SS20s by the Soviet Union.

Deployment of American missiles in Belgium and the Netherlands from next March has come under increasing question by both governments. The Dutch have argued that there should be a halt to deployment since there is no proof that further Soviet missiles are being set up. The leading party in the Belgian parliament, the Christian Democrats, has said there should be no deployment while talks between the Secretary of State and the Soviet Foreign Minister are going ahead.

British and American Nato sources said yesterday that the meeting would be dominated by the threat from Congress to cut spending in Europe if European Nato partners were not visibly paying more for their own defence.

As part of this argument, it is expected that a new six-year agreement on the money needed to provide a greatly improved defence infrastructure in Europe will be signed. Priority will be given to building "hardened" shelters to protect aircraft on the ground - one of the main demands in Congress.

Foreign ministers, who meet the next week, are to concentrate on East-West relations, particularly in the light of the new talks in Geneva. Mr Shultz will be asked for a guarantee that the entire Alliance will be kept fully informed.

But for everyone, according to officials, a big interest at the meetings will be watching the performance of Lord Carrington, the new Secretary-General, as he runs the first important ministerial meeting since taking office.

● COPENHAGEN: A five-man government commission into Danish defence yesterday came out unequivocally for membership of Nato as the country's only viable security strategy. (Christopher Follett writes).

Given its small size, key geographic location at the mouth of the Baltic and proximity to the Eastern bloc, Denmark had no real alternative to Nato membership.



Heavies move in: Armoured vehicles, leading a riot police bus, charge through the working-class area of La Victoria, Santiago to disperse protest against Chile's military rulers. Police held two nuns and three Roman Catholic priests after firing on demonstrators yesterday and wounding four people.

Book details torture in Argentina

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

A book describing in horrifying detail human rights abuses committed by Argentina's military government between 1976 and 1983 went on sale here yesterday, giving Argentinians a glimpse into their gory past.

The book, entitled *Never Again*, is a long awaited summary of the findings of the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons, which was appointed by President Raul Alfonsin a year ago to look into the fate of nearly 9,000 Argentinians who disappeared under military rule.

People wishing to obtain copies of the 500-page report were queuing at the publishers yesterday and Señor Luis Gregorich, the head of the publishing firm, reported that orders had already exceeded the first print run of 40,000 copies.

Never Again contains detailed testimony from victims who survived the military's network of torture and secret extermination camps. There are literally hundreds of descriptions of the tortures used.

"First, they stripped me naked and handcuffed my hands behind my back. Then they hung me from the ceiling, with my feet dangling 12in above the floor. It was too painful to describe and I lost track of how long I was left like this," one inmate was quoted as saying.

"Then the torturers lowered me 8in until I could stretch and try to rest by putting my feet on the floor, to take the weight off my arms. This was only an appearance, because, when I managed to touch the floor I began to receive electric shocks through my feet."

Other evidence tells how some of the 365 secret detention centres discovered by the commission operated as extermination centres.

Beagle signing, page 8

Muldoon's defeat marks end of an era in New Zealand

From W. P. Reeves, Wellington

Mr Jim McLay yesterday became the youngest leader of New Zealand's opposition National Party when he stormed to a crushing victory over Sir Robert Muldoon.

No voting figures have been released but Mr McLay, aged 39, won on the first ballot, which means he received more than 50 per cent of the votes, while the other four candidates, including Sir Robert, could not manage half the votes between them.

Sir Robert's defeat ends an era. The tough, bruising politician who dominated a decade of politics in a manner and style previously unknown in New Zealand will retire to the back benches. Typically, he went down fighting.

The signs were there when his third successive administration was voted out in the July snap election. Demands were made within the party for his head but

he bought time by indicating he was unlikely to be a contender when the leadership came up for review, probably it was then thought, in February.

He began gathering support to stay on and last week revealed his intention to enter the contest. But some of his parliamentary colleagues, who decide the leadership, outwitted him by springing the election early before he could capitalize on a considerable groundswell of personal endorsement.

Mr McLay, a lawyer and former Attorney General, is of liberal persuasion and likely to appeal to youth and urban voters who deserted the National Party in droves in July.

Mr Jim Bolger, aged 49, a farmer and former Minister of Labour, was elected his deputy. Mr McLay's first task will be to repair lines of communication between National's parliamentarians and the party machine and mend the philosophical fences which Sir Robert's interventionist economic policies broke down.

Ironically, it has been left to the new Labour administration to dismantle the controls on wages, prices and interest rates in which the Muldoon Government put its trust.

The party increasingly rebelled against what it saw as Muldoon's unorthodoxies and the final straw was the creeping off of much of its support in July by an overnight right-wing phenomenon, the New Zealand Party.

Mr McLay will seek to entice those voters back by a reaffirmation of basic national Party credo which Sir Robert, the populist neglected, the youthful leader will be aided by a style which has little of Sir Robert's abrasive and authoritarian qualities.

Man in the news

Smooth style of moderate McLay

From Our Correspondent, Wellington

Mr McLay has had a meteoric rise. He said after his election: "This is my tenth year in politics. I am certain I can do the job." He described the Labour Government as being "on the skids".

Mr McLay is a keen debater with a liberal image. He first entered Parliament as MP for Birkenhead, an Auckland constituency, after practising as a barrister. The pursuit of power has marked his political career.

He helped found the National Party Club at Auckland University, from which he graduated with a Bachelor of Laws in 1967. He worked his way up to the top party echelons in Auckland while still in his twenties.

Mr McLay's ambition



Mr McLay: A conscious pursuit of power.

subsequently dismissed it as an indiscretion.

When the deputy leadership became vacant earlier this year, Mr McLay, by then Attorney General, not only Attorney General, Minister of Justice, easily won the support of his parliamentary colleagues.

His standing is high within the party at large. He is respected for his debating talents, ability to analyse problems, fashion a consensus and project a strong television image but also for his regard for the party's traditional values.

Sir Robert's style grated on many of the old guard but they are comfortable with Mr McLay's inclination to address the issues rather than personalities.

Sri Lanka creates coastal 'no man's land'

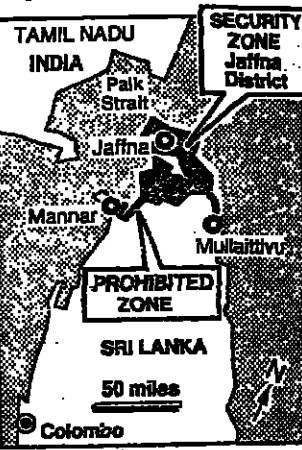
From Our Correspondent, Colombo

Sri Lanka is to establish a "no man's land" extending 100 yards inland and 100 yards into the sea along an area stretching from Mannar, on the north-west coast, to Mullaitivu on the north-east coast of the island. It is also declaring the Jaffna district a security zone with a 4pm to 6am curfew.

Announcing these measures in Parliament yesterday, Mr Lalith Athulathumudali, the Minister of National Security, said that they were necessitated by the activities of rebel groups which had escalated their violence in recent weeks.

The rebels, he claimed, were planning to drive Sri Lanka's armed forces from the northern and eastern provinces by December 31 before establishing a secessionist Tamil state. The minister said the rebels intended to proclaim their "Tamil Eelam" state on January 14 the day of Tamil harvest festival.

The minister also announced the introduction of "collective responsibility" throughout the island wherever explosions take place or explosives are found. All persons living in an area where an explosion had taken place or explosives had been found would be liable to resettlement in another area. Legal action will be taken against anyone who fails to report caches of arms or explosives in their area.



The minister said that no one would be permitted to enter or stay in the zone or "cordon sanitaire" along the coast without local police permission. Those whose livelihood will be affected should apply for relief to the authorities.

The intention is, he said, to keep this zone completely free for the armed services in order to prevent an invasion of Sri Lanka from across the straits. The armed forces, he told Parliament, must be able to operate "without coming into collision with the civilian population".

In the Jaffna security zone, no one will be allowed to own or use private vehicles or bicycles without special police permissions. All traffic must in the future operate along specific routes and at fixed times.

Jaffna householders must submit the names of those staying in their houses to the police. Mr Athulathumudali added that these measures would be temporary and would be lifted as soon as possible, but the Government had to face the threat posed by the recent merging of several rebel groups to the unity of the state.



She was one of those eager and talented young people of fifty or more years ago whose futures then seemed bright, but for whom something went wrong. Now she is cared for by RUKBA with a life long annuity, and there will be a place for her in a Residential Home or a Sheltered Flat if and when she needs one.

RUKBA is dedicated to the care of the impoverished and/or infirm elderly of professional or similar backgrounds. Currently we are spending more than £15m a year assisting over 4,800 people who would otherwise be struggling to exist - but there are so many more who need our help. They did much for others when they were able; now they need others to help them. They deserve something better than the bare necessities. Please join in our cause by sending a generous donation now; and, later, remember RUKBA in your Will.

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T484

Settler killed in New Caledonia

Noumea (Reuters) - A white settler was shot dead and a car bomb exploded yesterday as militant tribesmen in the troubled French Pacific territory of New Caledonia stepped up their campaign for independence.

Germain Guerin, a farmer aged 72, was killed and his wife wounded when about 15 Kanak tribesmen fired into their farmhouse in the rugged north-east of the territory, police said.

He was the first person to die since the Melanesian Kanaks, outnumbered by French and other settlers, began a campaign two weeks ago for independence as Kanaky (Land of the People).

The car bomb went off here shattering windows but causing no casualties. Four policemen were shot and wounded last week near Noumea but the city, the home

of 54,000 whites, nearly one-third of the territory's population, has largely escaped.

France's envoy, M Charles Barbeau, had further talks yesterday with local officials. Paris has made no commitment to changing its policy of allowing a new National Assembly, elected on November 18, to run the territory until a referendum on independence in 1989.

Four policemen were shot and wounded last week near Noumea but the city, the home



Royal pose: King Carl Gustaf and Queen Silvia of Sweden with President Richard von Weizsacker of West Germany and his wife (left) in Bonn yesterday during a two-day private visit to the Federal Republic.

Anger in Hong Kong at loss of citizenship

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Most of Hong Kong's 5 1/2 million people have found the Anglo-Chinese agreement on their future acceptable, according to the official assessment of their views, which was published in the form of a white paper yesterday.

But it also refers to an "agenda" of reservations and to bitterness, frustration and even anger among the colony's 2 million British Dependent Territory Citizens, who will lose that status when China takes over in 1997.

Of just over 1,000 people who clearly expressed their views to the special assessment office, 364 rejected the draft agreement.

But an overwhelming majority of the 679 groups and organizations which made their views known accepted its terms, which provide for Hong Kong to retain its capitalist lifestyle for 50 years after reverting to Peking.

The possibility of Chinese conscription for Hong Kong youth and the stationing of communist troops in the territory, and the question of leases

and, particularly, nationality, are the matters which are most worrying local people, according to the assessors, who studied 2,494 submissions by members of the public and 1,063 comments in Hong Kong's media.

The conclusions on the overall acceptability of the document are endorsed in a separate report by two independent monitors, Sir Patrick Naime, Master of St Catherine's College, Oxford, and Mr Justice Simon Li Fook-Sean, who said:

"The verdict of acceptance implies neither positive en-

thusiasm nor passive acquiescence. The response to the Assessment Office has demonstrated the realism of the people of Hong Kong."

A statement by the unofficial members of the colony's executive and legislative councils said last night that China must now demonstrate its willingness to listen to the views of Hong Kong's people.

(Hong Kong: Arrangements for testing the acceptability in Hong Kong of the draft agreement on the future of the territory. Miscellaneous No. 24 (1984), HMSO, 50p.)

Civil war truce seen as cure for Ethiopian plight

By Tony Samstag

Britain should press Ethiopia to accept a truce in its civil war with the rebel provinces of Tigré and Eritrea, according to a four-man British delegation on its return from Sudan yesterday.

"People must realize that the famine is due to war as well as drought. If we are going to help we ought to take steps to stop the fighting," Mr Julian Amery, Conservative MP for Brighton Pavilion, said at Heathrow.

"The four horsemen of the Apocalypse are riding high in Africa."

Mr Amery said he had visited a refugee centre at Kassala, near the Ethiopian border in the north of Sudan, and had spoken to Tigré and Eritrean refugees. With him were Mr John Wilkinson, Conservative MP for Ruislip, Northwood, Mr Louis FitzGibbon, and Lieutenant-Colonel Neil McLean.

The Tigréans in particular, whom the British team described as "utterly destitute", were adamant that they had had no aid. "One refugee died at our feet", Mr Wilkinson said.

Mr Amery said he would be lobbying Parliament to take more account of the effects of the continuing war on the African famine.

The group, all of them members of the House of Lords and Aden Council, flew to Khartoum on Sunday as guests of the Speaker of the Sudan

National People's Assembly. Mr Izzeddin as-Sayid, against growing concern about threats to the region's political stability which is almost certain to be aggravated by the spreading famine.

Observers are comparing the plight of the Sudanese to that of Ethiopia a year ago, with grain prices rising as livestock passes and with refugees from Chad and Ethiopia adding to the welfare burden of up to a million already driven to leave their drought-stricken lands, mainly in western Sudan.

● TOKYO: Japan is to send a medical team and water experts to tackle suffering in Ethiopia (David Watts writes).

The measures were announced yesterday, together with the sending of another team to eight African countries to try to develop agricultural projects for increased food production.

They follow the recent tour of African countries by the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe, who announced in Addis Ababa a grant of \$50 million in food and agricultural-related assistance as part of Japan's efforts to build a diplomatic role in Africa.

September and October were designated "Africa months" by the Foreign Ministry, to try to raise Japanese consciousness about Africa's famine.

'Onassis' of Harare rail

Harare - Mr Farai Masango, the newly-appointed general manager of the National Railways of Zimbabwe, has been suspended for extravagant spending that would "make Onassis turn in his grave" (Jan Raath writes).

Dr Herbert Ushewokunze, the Minister of Transport, announced in Parliament that since Mr Masango assumed office two months ago, a

chronicle of mismanagement had followed that cost the railways \$60,000.

Among the alleged excesses by Mr Masango he listed the purchase of a \$9,000 flat in an exclusive area of Bulawayo.

A priceless collection of antique furniture forming part of the assets of the general manager's residence had been replaced with brand new furniture costing £33,000.

هكذا من الأصل

IT SEEMED AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO START LOOKING FOR NORTH SEA OIL.

1 9 6 5

A routine press conference in London, and an off-the-cuff remark by Shell UK's top geologist. Within minutes his comments are on every Editor's desk in Fleet Street, and by morning, being repeated the length and breadth of the country. While the sceptics scoff, the politicians pray. If what has been hinted at is indeed true, it will alter the economic and political fortunes of Britain for decades to come. Out in the North Sea, it is reported, Shell expects to strike oil.

1 9 6 6

The financial markets of London buzz with anticipation following Shell's discreet announcement of 'a significant gas discovery' 32 miles off the coast of East Anglia. Within two years Shell and other companies are bringing North Sea gas ashore, and with it a dramatic revival for the British gas industry. Plans are made for completely converting the National Grid to natural gas.

1 9 6 7

Armed with the latest seismic data, two geologists from Shell set up a small office in a tiny flat, over a bookshop, in the centre of Aberdeen. It seems as good a place as any from which to tackle their awesome task. They have been instructed to begin exploration of the vast and hostile waters of the northern parts of the North Sea.

1 9 7 1

At the northernmost offshore well yet drilled in the world, a veil of secrecy descends over Shell's activities. Communications with the mainland are suddenly coded through 'scrambler' phones. Information is rushed to Shell's scientists for prompt analysis. Until, as abruptly as they began, the exploration team cease all activity, seal the well, and are clearly seen making off for entirely new locations. A simple manoeuvre to ensure that nobody will guess what they have found.

1 9 7 2

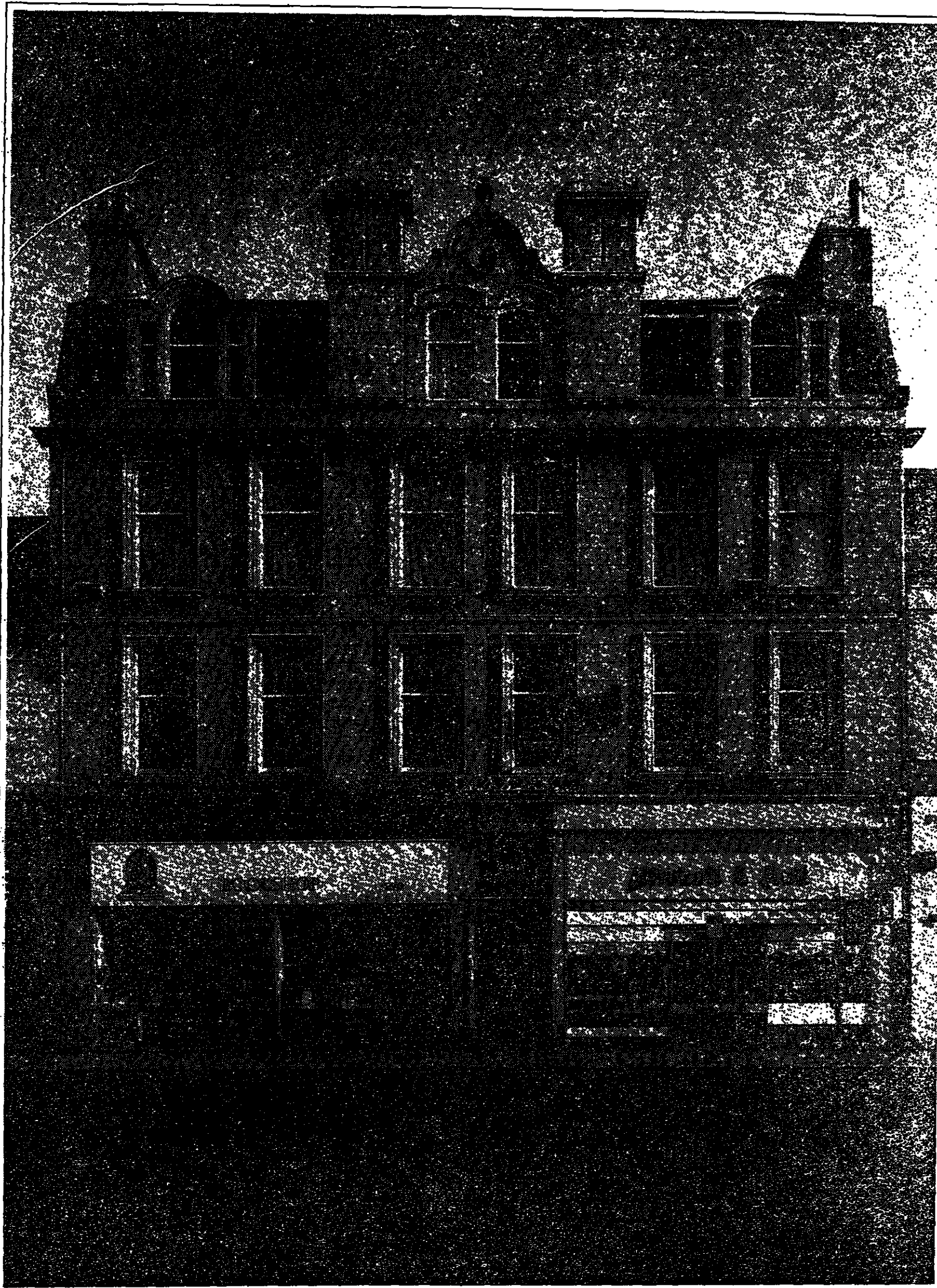
Shell proudly announces the discovery of what will prove to be a giant oil and gas find for Britain, the Brent Field.

1 9 7 4

The latest analysis of the Brent Field shows that the possible reserves of oil and natural gas liquids are double the original estimate. With Britain's oil deficit still around £3.8 billion, the news is welcome indeed.

1 9 7 6

The very high ratio of gas and gas liquids to oil being produced at Brent leads to a daring new scheme. A pipeline 278 miles long is to be laid on the seabed, to bring ashore the gas and gas liquids for separation. It will be the longest, and deepest, offshore pipeline ever built and is yet another challenge for British industry. Much of the technology required for North Sea development must be capable of operating in waves of up to 100 feet high, and in gusts of wind up to 100 miles per hour. In this instance, underwater cameras, side-scan sonars and computer systems are needed that will operate 600 feet beneath the sea.



1 9 7 8

The scheme is a success. Now it will be possible to bring the gas and gas liquids ashore for further use. The gas will be extracted and fed into the National Grid.

It would be possible to split the remainder into ethane, butane, propane and natural gasoline — important resources for industry. To do so, a highly advanced plant, costing many millions of pounds, will have to be specially built.

1 9 8 0

Work begins on the £400 million Gas Liquids Plant being built by Shell at Mossmorran, and on the 138 mile pipeline that will feed it. Soon Mossmorran will be the largest construction site in Europe.

1 9 8 2

Oil production from Brent approaches 310,000 barrels per day. This vast quantity helps transform Britain's oil deficit of yesteryear into a surplus of around £4.4 billion.

1 9 8 4

A VIP gathering to witness the opening of the new Mossmorran plant. Distinguished speakers touch on one or two environmental aspects of the plant, such as how it has been built tucked into the contours of the land so as to be as unobtrusive as possible. Also mentioned are the industrial aspects, such as how the hydrocarbons being produced will ultimately be used in the manufacturing of a thousand and one household items, from lipsticks to records.

But above all, it is noted that the opening of Mossmorran marks the culmination of the twenty years in which Shell, and the countless number of smaller British companies that have worked for her, have invested thousands of millions of pounds and great skill and ingenuity in the North Sea.

With excitement, we all look forward to the next twenty years.

YOU CAN BE SURE OF SHELL



Husain flying to Cairo for talks about PLO initiative on West Bank

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The Palestine Liberation Organization's "parliament-in-exile" neared the end of its final, delayed session in Amman last night with Mr Yasser Arafat able at last to negotiate with King Hussein for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian initiative to regain the occupied West Bank, but few specific details as to how this should be done.

Mr Arafat's own rapprochement with Egypt received guarded approval from the Palestine National Council, because of its beneficial effects on "the Egyptian masses" rather than on the PLO, while the pro-Syrian Palestinian factions who have broken with him were urged to return to the fold.

After talks with Mr Arafat yesterday morning, King Hussein arranged to visit President Mubarak of Egypt tomorrow, apparently to coordinate a political approach to the United States on behalf of both Jordan and Egypt. With the King and Mr Mubarak lobbying President Reagan for support for the new West Bank initiative, the Americans are likely to have to take seriously the King's proposals.

What may look hopeful on paper still seems extremely doubtful in reality, however the PLO's executive committee, which was to be re-elected last night, is still talking of "armed

struggle" against Israel, a phrase which effectively precludes any American involvement in a Jordanian-Palestinian initiative.

The council's condemnation of what it called Israeli and American "terrorism" in the Middle East is also unlikely to raise much enthusiasm within the Reagan Administration.

Diplomat saved by jammed gun

Athens - A Jordanian diplomat in Athens narrowly escaped assassination yesterday when the gun of an "Arab-looking" attacker jammed (Mario Modiano writes). Mr Assim Katsis, aged 40, minister and Chargé d'Affaires at the Jordanian embassy, was driving home in the residential suburb of Psychika, with his two young sons when he was attacked. He tried to pursue the gunman, but he escaped on a motorcycle. Greek police have launched an extensive search for him.

According to the political programme adopted by the council, the PLO now has "the right of escalating the armed struggle against Israel's occupation and the right of Palestinian forces to launch their struggle across all Arab fronts into Israel."

Neither Jordan nor Syria (nor Egypt) is likely to facilitate this proposal, which can in fact be acted upon only by Arafat's Palestinian enemies in Lebanon. But it will also repel the Americans.

In Beirut yesterday the Lebanese Government's security plan received a noisy setback when an artillery barrage upon the National Army by Druze militias in the mountains above the capital spilled over into East Beirut, killing three people. In the devastated Druze town of Aley a car-bomb exploded near the post office, killing four men.

The authorities, however, are still insisting that the Army will move down the coast road to the Israeli lines on the Awali River in the next seven days and that Government troops will at the same time move north to the Syrian lines on the Mafoun bridge north of Beirut.

● CAIRO: King Hussein's planned visit to Cairo will be his first to Egypt in seven years (Alice Brinton writes). Last September he broke away from 16 Arab countries who had isolated Egypt diplomatically after its peace treaty with Israel and renewed relations with Egypt.

His move prompted President Mubarak to visit Jordan to discuss a possible resumption of the stalled Middle East peace talks.

The Sharon libel trial

How reporter lost his boyhood hero

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The battle in the courtroom where Ariel Sharon is suing Time magazine for \$50m, is frequently acrimonious and emotional.

"It is your belief that Mr Sharon encouraged this massacre?" demands Mr Milton Gould, Mr Sharon's lawyer.

"I do not want to believe it," Mr David Halvay, one of the Time correspondents in Israel, replies.

Mr Gould is exasperated. He has a way of asking a question, then walking away from the lectern, his back to the witness, his eyes turning heavenwards, like some intransigent schoolmaster at the end of his tether.

"Do you believe it?" he asks again.

Mr Halvay, who has been fencing with Mr Gould for hours and has complained that the lawyer twists his words, repeats: "I do not want to believe it."

Judge Abraham Sofaer, who has often had to raise his voice to rein in the prickly Mr Gould, says: "That is his answer. The jury will evaluate it."

Mr Sharon, aged 56, was Defence Minister when he directed Israel's invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. In September that year, as he has testified here, he approved St Christian Phalangists going into the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps in an area under Israeli army control outside Beirut. Hundreds of Palestinian refugees were murdered by the Phalangists.

The official Israeli report on the massacres held Mr Sharon indirectly responsible, criticising him for disregarding the likelihood of slaughter.

Two days after the report

Brandt in dark over Flick cash

Former Chancellor Willy Brandt (left) arriving yesterday to give evidence before the parliamentary committee investigating the Flick affair.

He said he had no idea whether his Social Democratic Party had received money from the company. West Germany's biggest private undertaking (Michael Blinowitz writes).

Testifying for the second time, Herr Brandt said the SDP had been hurt by the impression that political decisions had been influenced by money, and regretted that more had not been done earlier to publish details of donations.

Japan hints Iran is to blame

From David Watts

Tokyo Japan has revealed for the first time details of its attempts to mediate in the Iran-Iraq war. They confirm that Iran's failure to reach internal consensus on the war's future course has blocked progress.

In the past Japanese have disclaimed any mediation role, saying only that they were trying to ease a settlement.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman spoke yesterday, however, of visits not only to Baghdad and Tehran but also to Riyadh and Paris in Tokyo's attempts to contain, and ultimately to end, the war. Japan has good relations with both Iran and Iraq, with development projects and as a principal buyer of oil from both countries.

The response to Japanese efforts was positive in both Baghdad and Riyadh, according to the ministry, but Iranian leaders could not present a unified position in response to Japan's hopes for a partial ceasefire.

Japanese diplomats have been trying to win small concessions from each side to side-track Tehran's three conditions for ending the war: the removal of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, total withdrawal of Iraqi forces, and extensive war reparations.

The spokesman said that Mr Shintaro Abe, the Foreign Minister, reported Japanese efforts in Cairo at the end of his recent African tour, and won Egyptian support, but that there was little prospect of progress without consensus in the Iranian Government.

There does, however, appear to have been some Japanese success in trying to persuade both sides not to attack Gulf shipping. Japan has also apparently been trying to arrest the use of chemical weapons.

● KUWAIT: The heads of six Gulf states have drafted ideas designed to prepare the way for peace talks between Iran and Iraq, according to a statement at the end of a three-day meeting yesterday (Reuters reports).

The statement said the Gulf Co-operation Council, grouping Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, was "prepared to undertake any direct endeavour which might bring about progress towards dialogue and negotiating."

The council drew up ideas it hopes will meet with the required response, said the statement, read by the Secretary-General of the GLC, Mr Abdullah Bisbara.

Director of environment agency quits

From Mohsin Ali

Washington Mr William Ruckelshaus, who took over as head of the US Environmental Protection Agency last year during one of its most troubled periods, has resigned, saying "the ship called EPA is righted and is now steering a steady course."

In his letter to President Reagan he said he had accomplished his goal of bringing stability to the agency and wished to return to private life in January.

Some sources said he was unhappy with the prospect of big cuts in the agency's operating budget.

Mr Ruckelshaus, who was the agency's first administrator, from 1970 to 1973, said in television interviews yesterday that his leaving was "very straightforward". It was time to make a break and his departure had nothing to do with his relationship with President Reagan.

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Comings and goings in Washington

Senate plots a moderate course

From Nicholas Ashford

Washington This week's election of a new Republican leadership in the Senate has strengthened the hand of moderates in the upper chamber and is likely to result in greater Senate independence from the White House.

By choosing Senator Robert Dole of Kansas to succeed Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee as majority leader, the 53 Republican senators deliberately opted for a strong and independent leader who can fill the vacuum which will be created once President Reagan is perceived to be a lame-duck President at the end of the first year of his second term.

"By picking the strongest candidate, we did indeed choose independence," Senator John Warner of Virginia said after Senator Dole's 28-23 victory over Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska.

The White House, however, will have a close ally in Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana who will take over as chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee when the ninety-ninth Congress convenes early in January.

He is a mainstream Republican conservative, known as a team player who can be expected to try to resolve any problems with the Administration quietly, rather than through confrontation.

Senator Lugar supported President Reagan's increases in defence spending and the tough line he took with the Soviet Union during his first year in office. Although an opponent of the unrattified Salt 2 nuclear arms agreement, he is likely to go along with any reasonable arms reduction accord which the United States manages to negotiate with Moscow in the President's second term.

Senator Lugar's elevation to the chairmanship of the foreign relations committee (which must be confirmed in January) was part of a complex deal between himself and Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, the right-wing chairman of the agriculture committee, to ensure the post did not go to a liberal.

As senior senator on the foreign relations committee, Senator Helms was first in line to take over from Senator Charles Percy of Illinois who was defeated in the recent election.

Although Senator Helms had come under intense pressure from right-wing supporters to take the job, he said he would honour his campaign pledge to his tobacco farming constituents to remain as head of the agriculture committee.

"If there is one job in the Senate I would like to have, it is foreign relations committee chairman, and there it was," he said after offering the post to Senator Lugar. "All I had to do was to be a principle. But I can't keep my word, I don't belong around here."

A senator can chair only one full committee. Senator Helms's supporters said yesterday they would continue to press for him to take the foreign relations post.

Overall, the new Senate leadership is made up of more political moderates. Among those who gained promotion were Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island who takes over the chairmanship of the Republican conference and Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania who becomes head of the Republican senatorial campaign committee.

Senator Robert Packwood of Oregon, who succeeds Senator Dole as chairman of the finance committee, is considered a moderate on most issues and is a frequent critic of the White House. He has, however, been a Reagan loyalist on tax issues.

Ultimately, it will be Senator Dole who will determine the relationship between Senate Republicans and the White House. Although he has a strong record of support for the Reagan Administration, he has often demonstrated a streak of independence.

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Winning smiles: Senator Dole (right) and his deputy, Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming, enjoying the spoils of victory after the party caucus at the Capitol.

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Weinberger and Shultz split on use of troops

From Our Correspondent, Washington

An important policy speech by Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, listing six key tests to be applied when deciding the use of American combat troops abroad has sparked off speculation that it has put him at odds with Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State.

A senior Pentagon official was quoted in one press report as saying that the speech on "the uses of military power" made on Wednesday was aimed at Mr Shultz, who has advocated using US troops as an arm of diplomacy.

In his speech, Mr Weinberger said that US forces should be used only as a last resort and then only with "the clear

intention of winning". He cautioned against trying to apply limited military power to achieve unclear objectives.

Mr Shultz, in a speech last April indicated that military muscle, not diplomatic effort, was the missing ingredient in pursuing American objectives in Lebanon. He has also called for preemptive and retaliatory strikes against state-sponsored terrorism.

The two speeches showed some reversal of the classic roles of the two secretaries of state, with the head of the diplomatic service advocating more military measures and the defence chief urging greater caution.

The United States moved up to second place, but the Soviet Union retained a comfortable lead.

Salonika (Reuters) - The Soviet Union yesterday suffered its first defeat of the Chess Olympiad, at the hands of a United States team led by the former Soviet citizen Roman Dzindzichashvili.

In a fine ninth round game, Dzindzichashvili became the first man in the 14-round contest to defeat the senior Soviet player Alexander Belyavsky.

Lev Polugayevsky of the Soviet Union beat Larry Christiansen, and Walter Browne of the US drew with Rafael Vaganian yesterday.

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Police and students shoot it out in Lima

Lima (Reuters) - Students exchanged gunfire with police at the San Marcos University here yesterday and youths blocked roads with flaming tyres as a general strike against the government's austerity measures disrupted Peru. An eyewitness said two youths were wounded, and two dynamite blasts rocked the campus.

Buses were off the roads, telephone links were interrupted and most schools and banks were closed as trade unions launched a 24-hour stoppage to protest at the economic policies and human rights record of President Fernando Belaunde Terry's Government.

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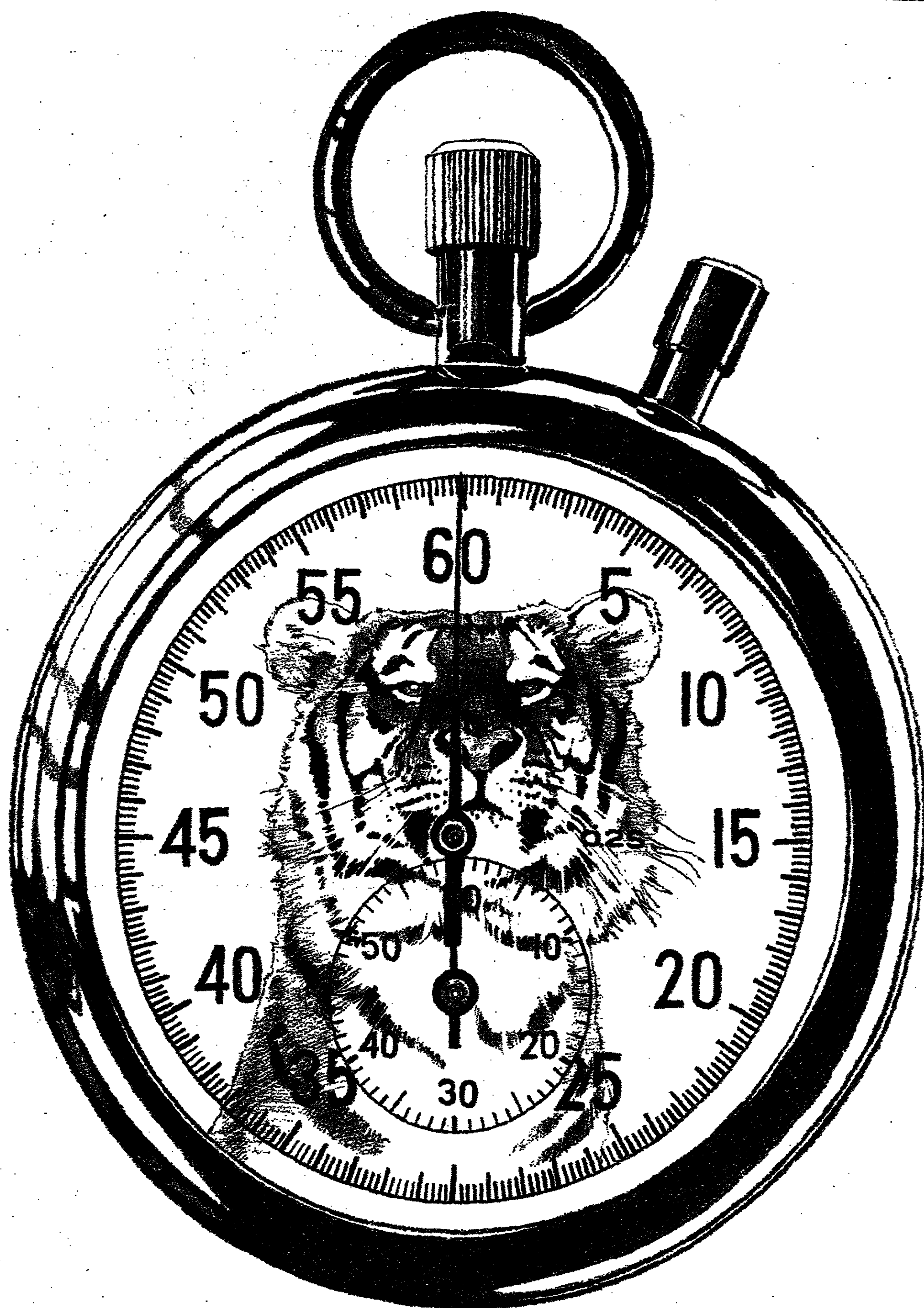
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And thank you for your time.



SPECTRUM

With Sunday shopping, flexible working hours and the new technologies, John Dawson foresees a time when the weekend will be little different from the rest of the week

Dawn of the seven day society

The way we live in Britain has changed so dramatically during the last 35 years that many of the laws passed just after the Second World War are no longer relevant.

It is the acknowledgement of the extent of social change - as represented by the everyday activity of shopping - that has led to the proposed scrapping of the 1950 Shops Act that will allow Britain's shops to open on Sundays. And Sunday opening itself may well be a critical stage in the move towards the creation of the seven-day society, where the sharp divide between weekday and weekend will vanish.

In such a society there will be only limited variation from day to day in such areas as work, family, leisure, shopping and professional sport.

The widespread opening of shops for seven days a week will add several hundred thousand people to the Sunday workforce - not just shop workers but also the support staff needed in modern retailing - and will open up new social activities to millions of families. Many service industries, particularly in leisure and culture, already operate on Sunday, and in Scotland there is even Sunday banking.

The British economy is frequently described as service-based; implicit in this is a gradual move towards a seven-day society. Traditional weekday activities will spread to Saturday and Sunday as traditional weekend activities will spread to weekdays.

The Shops Act of 1950 consolidated several pieces of legislation aimed mainly at regulating shopworkers' hours and conditions. In the first half of the century, retailing employed full-time workers who gave customers a high level of service. Customers were advised

and personally served by shop assistants who had received a lengthy training.

Today much of the industry is trying to minimize costs and prices to make enough profit to ensure continued financial backing. High share prices are almost as important as well-stocked shelves. The industry's labour needs have changed drastically: the full-time employee has been replaced by part-timers matched to the daily and weekly sales patterns.

The transformation has been remarkable. In 25 years, while real retail sales have increased by more than 40 per cent, the number of direct retail jobs has fallen by half a million, and the proportion of part-time jobs has risen from a quarter to almost a half.

Changes in the food and grocery trades are even more striking. In a typical superstore, more than 60 per cent of jobs are part-time. With generally almost half the jobs being part-time, there is clearly now less need for employment protection legislation like the 1950 Shops Act.

The change in retailing is part of the much wider social and economic transition towards a post-industrial society and service economy. The social change is reflected by changes in consumer demand to which the retail sector responds directly. With high inflation, consumers have been willing to forgo some of the services they used to enjoy in favour of lower prices. Retailers have responded with intense price competition, new types of shop, and new methods of operation. For example, the growth of health food shops reflects the greater public concern with diet.

The demand for Sunday shopping in Britain is an extension



Open all hours: from consumer goods to non-stop entertainment

of the growing call for sporting and leisure provision on Sundays. We already have some Sunday football and a full cricket programme.

Once seven-day shopping is established, we can expect formal recreation and sporting activity to be spread more evenly through the week: racing and rugby on Sunday, more football matches moving from Saturday to Sunday.

There is already Sunday racing throughout Europe and in the Eastern bloc. Closer to home there have been a few point-to-point races in Ireland and many experts expect Sunday racing to take place there. That bastion of British sport, Wimbledon, has played its men's finals on a Sunday since 1982.

All this will lead to an increasing demand for additional public services such as libraries and post offices to open

on Sundays. Over the next 10 years, the range of Sunday services will increase rapidly.

Opening up Sundays suggests more flexible attitudes to the use of time, not just in social activities, but also in working hours. The move to fewer and more flexible working hours which is already evident will be speeded-up by the loss of the traditional differences between weekday and weekend.

Licensing hours may be relaxed, and commercial and banking services will become available all week as banks open on Saturdays, and even Sundays, in shopping centres. Automatic banking machines, home television-based financial advice and services will harness new communication technologies to allow seven-day access to many services now available only on weekdays.

These new technologies, including cable, will make education services available on demand at any time. Work will become more home-based, with flexible hours and task-oriented scheduling. Electronic mail and programmable telephones will encourage more flexibility in office-based jobs too, while increased use of robotics will mean continuous production in factories.

Sunday shopping and Sunday recreation are only the first step towards the seven-day society. A complete seven-day society needs more than just the current token opening of courts, social service offices, and government services.

The seeds of this second stage can be seen today in the emergency services. As other Sunday activities grow, it is

'How the law is an ass'

The Shops Act of 1950 was never intended to be more than a stop-gap measure propping up unenforceable laws which were full of loopholes.

A departmental committee under the chairmanship of Sir Ernest Gowers reported at the beginning of 1947: "Existing shops legislation exemplifies the maxim that hard cases make bad laws. There are too many exemptions; the law tries over much to combine the incompatibles of compelling shops to shut and allowing people to buy. This has had disastrous consequences, especially in mixed shops; in certain respects the law is neither observed nor enforceable, and has been brought into contempt."

But it was the existing legislation that was incorporated in the Shops Act 1950; and though the contempt in which it was held has increased ever since, it has survived 19 attempts at reform in the last 34 years. If the Act was out of date when passed, it became increasingly more so. The exemptions for goods that could be sold on Sundays were drawn from earlier legislation, some of them on the statute book before the First World War.

The well-publicized anomalies are legion. Among the more bizarre are that the Sunday trader can legally sell whisky or gin, but not dried milk for a baby's bottle; postcards but not birthday cards; a razor blade if it is to be used for cutting corns, but not for shaving; fresh vegetables but not tinned ones; fresh cream but not clotted cream, unless tinned.

You can also buy a pornographic magazine, but not the Bible, unless the Bible is sold from a bookstall at a designated airport or railway station, spare parts for an aeroplane, but not a pair of shoes; and fish and chips from any take-away food shop except a fish and chip shop, although fish and chip shops are permitted to sell any other form of take-away meal.

The law also makes special provisions for selling partly-baked tripe on Sundays, but fails to take account of the rather more popular

garden centre, which has to shut. The most spectacularly outdated provisions of all include a special exemption for selling fodder for horses, mules, ponies and donkeys at any farm, stables or inn, and a clause allowing shops to open after 10am on Sunday mornings "in cases of emergency" to sell shellfish, rolls, fancy bread and flour confectionery among other items.

A court has even ruled that a kipper constitutes a meal and can therefore be sold on Sundays, just as sun-glasses have been held to be a medical appliance. In all a series of 16 exemptions conspire to create anomalies and to make the law unenforceable not only to the average shopkeeper but to lawyers and judges themselves.

But in more and more areas attempts at evasion have become unnecessary as local authorities abandoned the unequal struggle to apply laws their own officers could neither understand nor sympathize with. While a few comically pursued prosecutions, and some even sought expensive injunctions to stop flagrant flouting of the law, in a dozen counties there have been no prosecutions at all for year after year.

Even with recent increases in the maximum level of fines (up to £1,000 for breach of the Sunday trading restrictions), penalties commonly imposed by magistrates have proved no deterrent to large traders intent upon Sunday opening.

The law is widely disregarded all over the country to the evident satisfaction of Sunday shoppers. This disregard has spread to such an extent that the National Consumer Council collected in a single month nearly 1,700 newspaper advertisements for clearly illegal Sunday trading, and that large national multiples can advertise regular Sunday trading after consulting the local authority.

As the Home Affairs Committee of Inquiry report said, the Shops Act is "a public and daily reminder that the law is an ass".

Robin Young

likely that extra services will be added to the emergency ones in health, security, public administration, transport and so on.

The transport industry provides a basic Sunday service which is likely to be extended if Sunday shopping becomes widespread. Eventually public demand will result in a full service operating on Sundays.

Similarly lawyers, teachers, doctors, journalists and many other professional people currently work in some form on Sundays. As demand for their services increases, albeit gradually at first but later quickening, so Sunday working will become more widespread. And when the Inns of Court function on a Sunday, how long then the City?

It is society's attitudes to Sunday which are changing fundamentally, and this shift is reflected in the demand for

services. With increasing numbers of people working in this sector, coupled with increasing demand, so Sunday working will affect more and more workers. The service industry will act as the catalyst for change in the manufacturing sector. Agriculture has long been an almost complete seven-day society.

The fully-fledged seven-day society is still some way off. But even now there is considerable freedom from the weekly rhythm of 1950, with its Sunday roast with the family, Monday wash-day and cold meat, Friday payday, Saturday cinema and regularly daily clocking on and clocking off at work. When the 1950 Shops Act became law it was barely imaginable that these markers in the rhythm of weekly life would disappear.

John Dawson is the Fraser of Allander, Professor of Distributive Studies, Stirling University.



If you want to join the fast-growing sport of tracing your ancestry, you have a choice. You can head for the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths office in Kingsway,

London, and from there make the weary trudge around county record offices to search out wills and parish registers.

Or you can go to Salt Lake City in the United States, home of the largest genealogical library in the world. It is open nearly every day from 7.30am until 10pm, scores of assistants are ready to help you, and it won't cost you a penny.

The library is run by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, better known as the Mormons, one of the

The church that's got you and your ancestors on microfilm

fastest-growing religious groups in the world with five and a half million members worldwide. Mormons believe that the family is an eternal unit; one of the most important duties for a new convert is to search out their ancestors and perform certain ordinances on their behalf to bring them the heavenly rewards which come from being a church member.

This is why they have established their genealogical library, but they have public-spiritedly and apparently without ulterior motive opened its

doors to those who do not share their faith. Last year about 900,000 people used the library, of whom about half were non-Mormons.

It's worth the trip just to see Salt Lake City itself. It is a unique city, whose members account for around 70 per cent of the inhabitants of the state of Utah.

Mormons are not allowed to drink, smoke or take stimulants like tea or coffee. The city is among the cleanest in the world (they don't go in for dropping litter either). And Utah has by

far the highest per capita consumption of ice cream in the United States, sugar being one of the few indulgences that the Saints are permitted.

Visitors should be warned, however, that while tea and coffee are generally available for non-Mormons staying in the city's hotels, alcohol is not; and lighting up a cigarette in the street is not calculated to endear you to the natives.

The city skyline, bounded on one side by the imposing mass of the Rocky Mountains, and on the other by the seemingly endless plains which surround the great salt lake which gives the city its name, is dominated by the 27-storey office building of the church which seems much more like the headquarters of a large multinational company than of a religious group. The genealogical library is presently housed on four floors of this building, although it is rapidly outgrowing the space available there and a new purpose-built library is being constructed on the other side of the square (site of the temple and the famous tabernacle which houses the Mormon Tabernacle Choir).

The statistics of the collection are mind boggling. Over one billion names are on file and the index is growing at the rate of seven million names a year. Although the library has a large collection of printed books, the bulk of the genealogical collection is stored on microfilm. The church has more than 100 microfilm cameras at work around the world photographing birth, death and marriage registers, wills and other material. So far, one and a quarter million rolls of microfilm are housed in the library, with 2,000 new rolls coming in every month.

The original films are stored in enormous vaults carved into the granite cliffs of the Rocky Mountains about 10 miles outside the city. In the event of a nuclear holocaust or some other disaster eliminating the world's public record offices, the foresight of the Saints should ensure that at least the names of those who have gone before will survive for whatever posterity that may remain.

The British section of the library is particularly strong, largely because many Mormons have British ancestry. Paul Smart, who runs the section, has a full-time staff of eight plus 45 volunteers, who include in their ranks experts on medieval handwriting and Latin.

Large numbers of parish registers from England, Scotland, and Wales have been microfilmed by the church, as has every single British will back to the year 1858, a project which took 10 years with five cameras working for five days a week.

Several of the volunteers who help visitors trace their British ancestors are originally from Britain. Frank Smith and his wife Mollie, who are in the library nearly every day improving the catalogue information, came over to Salt Lake City from Yorkshire 31 years ago. Frank has been working in the library ever since he came to Zion, as the Mormons call their home state.

Those with Welsh ancestry are likely to be referred to Evan Evans, who emigrated from Cardigan 22 years ago and is now supervisor of the indexing unit in the British section.

There is a steady stream of visitors from Britain. I met Dorothy Mills, a civil servant from Suffolk who had given up her job to spend six months researching her ancestors. I met her halfway through her stay when she had traced her father's family back to the eighteenth century and her mother's back to the 1600s. Sandra Hunter, who works in the accounts department of Harrods, was spending her four weeks' annual holiday in the library. She had got back five generations but was finding further research confusing because of complicated intermarriage within her father's family.

If you decide to do your ancestor hunting in winter, Salt Lake City offers some of the finest skiing in the world, on its doorstep. Drive past the mountains which house the Mormon vaults and you come to the resort of Snowbird where the slopes are generally open from November to June.

Up there you can sin in safety. Booze and tobacco are allowed, but try to avoid breathing your nicotine and whisky fumes around when you get back to the library.

Ian Bradley

Confessions of a cat-napper

Our series: People who do very unusual jobs indeed

No 21 - A man who steals cats in order to return them to the owners

Les Handley entered his profession quite by accident. He trod on a cat one night. It was not badly hurt but it was limping, so he picked it up and then noticed it had a collar with a name and address on.

"Feeling a bit ashamed of myself, I went round to the owner's house to explain how it had got injured. They didn't want to know. As soon as they saw the cat, they fell on my neck, weeping and thanking me. Apparently the blessed thing had been missing for three weeks. But what set me off was the fact that they pressed a fiver on me."

What he got, in fact, was a reward. It was then he started to notice the little signs plastered around London on trees (in middle class areas) and lamp posts (in working class and very posh areas), asking for the tracing and return of Tiddles.

"Now, there's not much point in looking for a missing cat to go and claim the reward with. There's one chance in a thousand you'd ever find it. No, what you've got to do is steal the cat first and then wait for the notice to go up. Generally speaking, that means you've got to steal cats with names and addresses on."

Les generally waits a few days before he goes to claim the reward, as over-eagerness looks suspicious. The average reward these days is £10 to £15, and he reckons to clear at least a dozen cats a week, so he's on to £10,000 a year.

"That's not a fortune exactly, but it's tax-free. And I enjoy my work. That's the main thing. I love cats. To be quite honest, when the cats are with me I think they're often better looked after than at home."

At any one time there are two or three dozen cats in his flat. In the early days this almost led to catastrophe.

"Thing was, there was a reward out in Bayswater for a small ginger cat. I had a small ginger cat, so I took it round. No, they said, it wasn't that. An hour later I was back with another of my ginger cats, a bit bigger. Not that big, they said. I came back with one the right size, but - sadly - the

moreover... Miles Kington

wrong sex. Of course, me turning up with cat after cat made them suspicious, and the next time I turned up there was a police car lurking, so I just let the cat go and scurpered."

Another near-disaster occurred when he found a cat collar lying in the street and matched it to a missing cat sign for a tabby called Channel Four. He put the collar on a tabby at home and took it round.

"Unfortunately, I hadn't noticed when reading the ad that it was a Manx cat, so of course they were dumb-founded to see that their beloved Channel Four had grown a whole tail in four days."

"They knew it wasn't their cat. What they couldn't understand was why it was wearing their collar. Exit in double-quick time again. I'd strongly advise anyone thinking of taking up cat-stealing to read the notice properly."

Doesn't Les ever worry about the heartache he brings to families who suddenly lose their familiar pet?

"Heartache? You've got to be

joking. They haven't given their cat a second glance for years till it goes missing. Of course, they're a bit distraught when they can't find it, but that's nothing to the joy I bring them when I take it back. I treasure those moments. Some of these families have become firm friends of mine."

A few of Les's cats are never claimed at all, and then he keeps them. He, in turn, puts collars on them with names and addresses and makes them part of the household. Recently a favourite tortoiseshell called Blue Cheese Dressing went missing and Les, somewhat ironically, found himself putting up a 'Cat Missing' notice.

"Blue Cheese was brought back inside four hours by a nice young couple, but there was something about the eager way they asked for the reward that alerted me. You rotten lot, I told them, you're just a pair of cat thieves. They shot off into the night. If any of your readers are thinking of becoming cat burglars, so to speak, I'd advise them very strongly never to mention the rewards. They'll always cough up."

Les Handley, of all the people interviewed for this series, seemed to enjoy his work the most.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 509)

ACROSS

- 1 Acacia (6)
- 5 Of flowers (6)
- 8 Lion (3)
- 9 Health restorer (6)
- 10 Stand-in king (6)
- 11 Vessel rim (4)
- 12 Religion deserter (8)
- 14 Beehive area (6)
- 17 Casava (6)
- 19 Police patrol vehicle (5,3)
- 22 Restaurant (4)
- 24 Plumlike fruit (6)
- 25 Observe (6)
- 26 Expire (3)
- 27 Misery (6)
- 28 Repentant (6)

DOWN

- 2 Comfort (5)
- 3 Insoluble problem (7)
- 4 By now (7)
- 5 Give up (5)
- 6 Should (3)
- 7 Yellow-red dye (7)
- 13 Mineral spring (3)
- 15 Tart tasting (7)
- 16 Clear (3)
- 17 Sealifer (7)
- 18 Tie (7)
- 20 Fire-raising (5)
- 21 Confectionery (9)
- 23 Shawl (5)

SOLUTION TO No 508

ACROSS: 6 Comprehension 9 Res 10 Grotesque 11 Dodge 13 Deflect 16 Ladder 18 Manna 22 Yum 23 Forgetfulness 24 Kipper 25 26 Forgetfulness 27 Down 1 Scared 2 Amused 3 Fragment 4 Shroud 5 Knew 6 Risque 7 Jeopardy 12 Ore 14 Fumare 15 Con 16 Lay off 17 Immure 18 Rip off 20 Nutmeg 21 Furnace 23 Item

Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

Portfolio £42,000 to be won

Christmas cheer: Jane MacQuitty on the top wines

That's different: Unusual gifts for difficult people

Peak fitness: Ronald Faux goes trekking in the Andes

PLUS: News from home and abroad; Family Money; a critical guide to the week's arts; review of classical records; Values; Eating Out; In the Garden; Bridge; Chess and the prize crossword

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FRIDAY PAGE

Revealed: The sad secrets of abused children

Like child battering in the 1960s, the scale of the problem of sexual molestation of children is surfacing into public consciousness.

And the reality is less the man in the dirty mac lurking at the school gates than the familiar step on the stairs which makes the blood run cold. American and British studies both show that a child is three times likely to be molested by a trusted relative or friend as by a stranger, with fathers and stepfathers high on the list. Nor is the problem confined to chaotic, socially deviant families or those at the bottom of the socio-economic heap.

A MORI/Channel 4 poll, commissioned for tomorrow night's programme *Twenty-Two Vision*, of 2,016 adults shows that one in ten had been sexually abused under the age of 16. A recent American study states that nearly one in five women and one in ten men reported experiencing sexual abuse which had long-term effects on their self-image and ability to form sexual relationships.

Experts believe the harm done may only come to light in ado-

lescence with suicide attempts, self-mutilation and repeated attempts to run away from home.

Ruth and Henry Kempe, two leading American authorities, cite cases involving lawyers and judges in their book, *Child Abuse*. "Around 30 per cent of the aggressors on our books are policemen and similar authority figures," says Richard Johnson of the Incest Crisis Line, a self-help group for victims.

A study of 55 families seen by the Sexual Abuse Treatment Project at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, showed that 70 per cent of the children had been initiated before the age of ten. The American experience indicates that as awareness of sex abuse increases, the age of initiation in the reported cases goes down: in the US in 1979, the average age was nine; by 1981 it had gone down to seven.

Intimidation is the powerful silencer. One little girl, abused from

the time she was adopted, aged three, told C4 that her new "father" said: "If you tell, you and your brother will go back to the children's home." The child dared not test the truth of such a threat.

Says Arnon Bentovim, consultant child psychiatrist at Great Ormond Street and head of the UK's only

comprehensive treatment programme for sex abuse victims and their families: "Our view is that these families are so often wedded to secrecy as a system that often the rule is that you see nothing, hear nothing, think nothing."

In America, attention is concentrated on early detection and

prevention. Classroom workshops teach children how to spot the dangers and speak out.

In Britain, response to the problem is still largely uncoordinated. Co-operation between the police and social services is only beginning. A book published today - *Child Sexual Abuse within the*

Family - lays down a blueprint for a community-based response designed to bring cases to light earlier, stop the abuse, and minimize the long-term damage not only for the victim but for the family.

Through the police visit schools to alert children to the risks of accepting rides and sweets from

sexual abuse as children is an important variable for those who end up with serious psychiatric conditions." Dr. Tony Baker, chairman of Britain's Standing Committee on Sexually Abused Children, said: "Child sexual abuse is emerging as a major causative factor in many mental health problems."

Michael Levin
The author will present tomorrow night's programme.

strangers, the authorities in this country have so far shied away from the controversial area of educating children about the danger of molestation from parents, step-parents and relatives.

Parents and teachers feel uneasy about impinging on the innocence of children who will never experience sexual abuse by spelling out the risks so explicitly. But Carolyn Okell Jones, senior social worker at the Tavistock Centre, London, and Jessica Skippon plan to start filming in February a video for use in schools.

Carolyn Okell Jones has no doubt that the most effective weapon is to arm children with the means of speaking out and fighting back.

Incest Crisis Line: Richard 01-422 5100, Shirley 01-890 4732.

Child Assault Prevention Programme: Michele Elliott, 30 Windsor Court, Moscow Road, London W2 (01-229 7722).

● *Twenty-Two Vision: Child Sex Abuse* - a three-part series - starts on C4 tomorrow at 9.15 pm.

Clare Dyer

A major new factor in mental illness, say doctors

Sexual abuse during childhood is increasingly being identified by medical researchers as a major factor in mental illness - especially among women.

Dr Bob Palmer, a senior lecturer in psychiatry at Leicester University, and Mrs Rhoda Oppenheimer, a senior psychiatric social worker, have for six years run an eating disorders clinic in Leicester.

Their sample of 78 female patients suffering from anorexia or bulimia nervosa - the so-called

slimmers' disease - found that of 64 per cent who had been sexually abused, 80 per cent were abused as children.

When asked why they had not told their doctor, the usual response was: "He's a man and I couldn't possibly talk to a man about it." In all cases, the anorexia did not respond to treatment until the scars of sexual abuse had been healed.

The Leicester team do not claim that sexual abuse causes anorexia. But they do believe it causes great

distress which, delayed until maturity, may result in anorexia as a manifestation of the damage.

And in a pilot study on a mixed group of women psychiatric patients, the team found a very high level of previously unnoticed sexual abuse in childhood.

Lucy Berliner, a specialist in the care of child sexual assault victims at the Harvard New Medical Centre, which treats more than 1,000 patients a year, 75 per cent of them girls, said: "We now assume that

The Snow Rangers

Now the debutante days are over, Paul Pickering finds where the Hooray Henriettas slope off to in search of the good life and an ever-so-rich husband

Next week the hills will suddenly come alive with the sounds of Sloane Square and Mayfair, as an army of expensivevely brought up offspring of the rich head for the Alps to become chalet girls. Their bawling laughter echoing around the peaks has almost replaced the wail. The season starts this weekend, and now that being a debutante has died a death it is one way a fashionable young thing can get a well-earned husband.

A waspish old Sloane offered his scenario: Ffynona French-leave achieves a perfect score of zeros in her first year exams at The University. After a year of wrecking the milking parlour on daddy's farm and nearly bankrupting mummy's Fulham dress shop, something must be done. But it's hard to sack your own daughter. Why not suggest she goes where there is lots of snow-padded space and frozen young men who can afford the breakages...

This may once have been true, but today, with cut-throat competition for places, Ffynona has to be far more skilled if not Cordon Bleu cook. But the job is still an escape. In the mad social whirl of the chalet, croquet engagements and poppetic tutors will soon be forgotten. "I'm going to be a chalet girl," cuts all ties. In many ways it is the smart female equivalent of joining the Foreign Legion.

Even though she is likely to spend as much time immersed

to the elbows in washing up as zipping down the slopes, there is no stigma of "service" attached to the job. Anyone using the American term "ski bunny" is in danger of being disembodyed with the nearest ski stick. Ski nanny is often closer to the mark and there is a certain similarity to the pleasant rounded girls in brown uniforms who push prams round London parks.

But the chalet girl is proud of her job, with good reason. For while she is adjusting the bindings for Sidney, who owns most of Suffolk, there are probably around a thousand girls left bashing away at typewriters at home because their faces did not fit. Also, the wonderful bogus frugality of living off your own cooking and getting around £30 per week spending money, plus accommodation and ski pass, appeals to the upper-class parent. Only the nouveau riche would pay for their daughters to do a season's skiing.

It is increasingly harder to get in and Ffynona might be faced with an exam by the companies. The British Council considers a chalet holiday the only way to ski and is becoming choosier.

Ski Mac G, if not the Rolls-Royce then certainly the Golf GTI of chalet holidays, asks the girl, who has already been carefully interviewed, to cook a dinner and chat with the type of folk she will find on holiday.

"It helps to weed people out", says co-owner Annie Price. "On one occasion two men were having a carrot fight and started crawling around the floor and making comments about the girl's ankles. She went bright red. Then they put skis on and tried demonstrating turns on the sofa. She finally ran away saying we were mad." Chalet girls soon fall into the lingua franca of the slopes where holiday-makers are "punters".

Amanda Dary, aged 21, had no trouble with the carrots or anything else. Educated at Ffynona, she served the veal and poured the South African white with an attractive shyness. "I'm a bilingual secretary for a cheese firm", she confided. Her family was in wine bars, she added, after cooking the dummy run meal for eight at a house in Fulham. "I have never done this before and just want to get out of town for a bit. I know lots of people who have been."

"My friends think it's great and I haven't got a boyfriend at the moment. As to being swept off my feet by a dashing young ski instructor... well, one cannot plan these things." By the time she had served the chocolate mousse Amanda had talked to everyone and given the quiet impression she could cope with everything from an avalanche to a premature baby. She did not fit the stereotype of the disaster-prone Ffynona.

Extremely cool and efficient was Virginia Carr, aged 25, also bound for the slopes for her first season. "I have a good job



Chalet girls: Lucy Holden and Petra Hampton (left); Virginia Carr (above) and Amanda Dary (right).

'Lots of parties, lots of discos and lots of very late nights... it's brilliant'

recruiting for caterers but I want a change from London for a while. I expect it will be hard work cooking and cleaning the chalet, but it won't be the same sort of pressurized work I do at present. I love skiing but the thing I don't like is the green welly image and the reputation of the rather unintelligent good-time girl."

Educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College, the formidable Virginia did her Cordon Bleu training after school and then paid her way through a three-year management course in catering at Oxford, working as a waitress in the Berni Inn there.

"I take my career in catering seriously", she said. "I didn't really find that much competition when I applied for chalet girl jobs. I wrote for four and got four offers but that is because I have qualifications. There are also 14 in my family so I'm used to coping with large numbers. My boyfriend is a DJ at Tramps and in the evenings I

work as a cocktail waitress in London's Tower Hotel". Before long she could well be running a resort single-handed.

Girls who have done the "season" stress the fun. "It's brilliant", said Petra Hampton. "Lots of parties, lots of discoing and lots of very late nights. You get to bed at three and have to be up bright and early at seven for the bakers. You have to time the amount of sleep just right to avoid a headache."

She added: "We had lots of things like fancy dress parties and a French evening where everyone had to speak with a French accent and if you forgot you had to take off an article of clothing and people ended up without anything on. One group noticed that in the brochure it said you could ski right back to the chalet and decided it would be much

better if you could ski right into it. They built a ski slope in from the garden through the sitting room windows... Oh, and lots and lots of water fights and snowballs. It's all fairly Hooray Henry."

After a public school education, Petra went to a hotel management college at Westminster and is now in marketing. "I wouldn't go on a chalet holiday myself. You would probably get a dreadful chalet girl", she joked. "Actually the only problem is when some of the punters expect it to be a hotel. You have to tell people you are the chalet girl and not the maid. The trick is to get the punters to do all the work... but it must be good. I did it for two years on the trot."

Petra used to share a house in Fulham with another former chalet girl, Lucy Holden, aged 25. "I didn't have the usual public school background. I went to a comprehensive in Harpenden. It is the sort of thing that is great to do once

and depends on the type of punter you get. One lot really took me for a ride. They were always getting exceedingly drunk and doing silly things like hiding the loo brush in my bed, nothing terribly exciting.

"I don't think you could call the job romantic even though Switzerland is a very beautiful country. I am sure some girls have things with all the men in the chalet but I certainly didn't. Chalet girls have got this reputation for entertaining the punters in more than one way. I didn't fall for a ski bum either. I thought they were bums literally. They are usually Australian."

Lucy, who now wants to go into computers, said that the cheaper the chalet holiday, the worse time the chalet girl would have. "On the cheapies the real Gor Blimeys expect you to wait on them hand and foot. But if there's a better way of spending a winter I would like to know it."

While Caroline MacGregor,

who with Annie Price founded Ski Mac G in 1973 by hiring one chalet, counsels chalet girls against ski bums (one once walked out on her with a ski bum), a ski "wimp" can be just as bad. This is the boyfriend who follows his Ffynona to the pistes.

"Unless a chalet girl is particularly hideous or introverted (in which case she won't get the job)", states Caroline, "she is put on a pedestal for the winter to be respected, envied and inevitably chased."

"She for her part is expected to endow equal favours on all suitors but, frailty human, she may well fall in love with someone during the season, which makes the competition all the more fierce. To win a chalet girl's heart is a much sought after prize. But the Ski Stallion Stakes only take place in the mountains. For someone to arrive with a prior claim to a girl, that is against the rules."

Mrs MacGregor, it should be said, is very happily married to the former Captain of HMS Endurance. A straw poll among men who had sampled chalet holidays revealed much boasting. But one comment that had perhaps a kernel of truth. After the usual list of conquests, one Hooray Henry said sheepishly: "Well, I really found chalet girls are very like blue (easy) runs. Nice and fast at the top but bloody icy when you get near the bottom and likely to break your leg."

ALEXANDER CHANCELLOR
on the Royal Variety Performance:
"It was a nice touch to make the stage open and swallow up David Frost right at the start of the proceedings, which reminded me of Don Giovanni descending into Hell."

GEORGE GALLOWAY
in Ethiopia:
"Then, in this baked-dry, drought-stricken land the army brought out several water cannons and began turning powerful jets of precious water on the Bara... in the crush Ali Kera Weshishi and Idris Hamed Saleh were killed, the only known victims of death by water in the Sahelian drought so far."

ALAN WATKINS
diary:
"Talking of Wales, I remember that in the cinemas of my childhood newsreel shots of Churchill were always bowed, those of Stalin always cheered."

SIR ALEC GUINNESS
on his least favourite restaurant:
"... where the waiters giggle when they bring you the wrong order and are inclined to say 'O silly me!'"

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

Warm up for cold finger

Mild autumns are a bonus for people who suffer from Raynaud's phenomenon: but a sudden drop in temperature such as this week's will leave fingers blanched and painful. Some people's toes, ears and noses may also be affected. Cold hands and a warm heart - saying often applied to women - may derive from a mild manifestation of Raynaud's phenomenon. Estimates suggest that about 10 per cent of women are sufferers and the ratio of women to men is 4:1.

Causes of the reaction are

unknown, but a change in temperature constricts the blood vessels supplying the exposed parts of the body, so that even a simple task like choosing an item from a deep freezer can be a nightmare. Temperature is not the only trigger: anxiety may play a part and people who work with vibrating drills, for example, may develop similar symptoms.

The Raynaud's Unit at King's College Hospital, London, recently analysed questionnaires completed by 500 sufferers. Mr Kevin Lafferty, a surgeon at the unit, says that one of the important points to emerge was the large hormonal component in the phenomenon: susceptibility for women reflects different stages in the menstrual cycle.

If the condition develops during a person's teens, the chances are that some other

members of the family will also suffer. People with Raynaud's are more likely to have migraines, angina and suffer from duodenal ulcers - all of which have clear links with blood circulation.

The only salvation during winter for some is to wear electrically-heated gloves. These are available on the NHS as a surgical appliance but they are not always obtainable. Modern pairs are adaptations of the gloves worn by bomber pilots during the Second World War. They would make a welcome Christmas present, at about £90, for those sufferers who cannot get hold of them through the NHS.

For further information and support contact Mrs Anne Mawdsley, 40 Bladon Crescent, Alsager, Cheshire ST7 2BG. (09363 3167).

The bypass road to recovery

Former TUC general secretary Mr Len Murray's recent coronary artery bypass graft is the sort of operation doctors would like to see more people with heart disease undergoing.

A meeting organized last week by the King Edward's Hospital Fund for London recommended that an extra 10,000 sufferers a year should be offered the operation performed on Mr Murray (right).

At present, it is only those with obvious signs of coronary artery disease, angina, who are most likely to be offered a bypass after arteries have become furred and narrowed by fatty deposits.



Japanese lifesaver

Severely ill children in Europe can now be vaccinated against chickenpox. Belgian newspapers have been buzzing with stories of a vaccine against chickenpox which is commercially available for the first time. A conference in Munich this week launched the vaccine for use in West Germany with licences granted for Luxembourg, Switzerland, Portugal and Austria. There are no plans yet to introduce it in Britain.

The vaccine, first developed in Japan, will not be available for all children for some time. It is aimed primarily at children with leukaemia and other cancers, and those in contact with them. Any child whose own immune system is not functioning fully, either because of cancer therapy, because they are waiting for or have just had an organ transplant or because they are chronically ill - such as those suffering from cystic fibrosis - will benefit.

Chickenpox is not a harmless disease for these children. The survival rate over five years for children with acute leukaemia is

now 70 per cent. If they have the terrible luck to catch chickenpox, there is a 30 per cent mortality rate.

In clinical studies about 10,000 children have been vaccinated throughout the world. Early indications are that it is a safe vaccine: a few children suffered mild chickenpox-type symptoms and only one child in a study of 1,000 suffered severe symptoms.

The vaccine did not take in about 10 per cent of children and, in a further group, the immunity apparently wanes over two or three years.

Malaria returns

Twenty years ago the World Health Organization thought it had beaten malaria: a major assault, using drugs and insecticides had almost wiped out the disease and its mosquito carrier. Since then, however, the incidence of malaria has soared. Today around 300 million people suffer from it and up to four million die each year.

Unfortunately for the health planners, both the mosquito and the parasite responsible for malaria, *Plasmodium*, have

developed resistance to the chemicals used against them.

But a new answer may only be a few years away. A US coordinated research programme is seeking a vaccine against malaria. Development will not be easy because *Plasmodium* takes several different forms during its life cycle and a vaccine against one form may not work against another stage.

According to an article in *Science*, however, some new bioengineering methods have allowed important steps forward to be made.

US scientists have cloned the gene for a protein on the surface of the stage of the parasite which passes from the mosquito to man as the mosquito bites: the sporozoite stage. British and American researchers have identified proteins on the surface of the parasite's merozoite stage, the phase which infects red blood cells and destroys them.

A vaccine based on these findings might well turn out to be effective against both stages of the parasite's life cycle and therefore offer protection against malaria. If proteins could be found common to the parasite's sexual stage, the stage transmitted from man to mosquito, a vaccine capable of preventing the spread of the disease would also be in sight.

Flu false alarm

If people start complaining that they have been laid up in bed with flu, they are probably mistaken: chances are they have misdiagnosed a heavy cold. Flu in Europe one winter tends to follow the pattern set up in the southern hemisphere over the winter six months before. This year, like the last, there were few reports from anywhere in Australasia: New Zealand and Australia were particularly quiet.

There has been only one case of flu reported this season in Britain. Dr John Skehel, co-director of the World Influenza Centre in North London, is on the look out for more, but he believes there will be only a few isolated cases.

This year's flu vaccination has been geared to provide protection against three virus strains: the Philippines, USSR and Chile strains. At the moment, the strains do not seem to be changing: the USSR-type, an influenza B strain isolated last year, is still around. There is probably a high level of immunity at the moment.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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Malaysia returns
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"Talking of Wales, I remember that in the cinemas of my childhood newsreel shots of Churchill were always bowed, those of Stalin always cheered."

THE TIMES DIARY

Inviting trouble

Alan Hart, author of a new biography on Yasser Arafat, flew to the Middle East on a secret trip yesterday, fuelling speculation that the PLO leader may yet visit Britain. Hart refused to tell me exactly where or why he was going. His publisher Sidwick, which last week withdrew its invitation to Arafat, says Hart has now invited Arafat himself and "he may well just come next week to coincide with the book's publication". Hart, meanwhile, has fallen out with his publisher for withdrawing the invitation on "security grounds". Sidwick knew the risks when it invited Arafat in 1982, says Hart, a former *Panorama* reporter. He believes Lord Forte, Sidwick's owner, may have intervened after pressure from "powerful outside forces". Lord Forte was incommunicado yesterday. Sidwick, which categorically denies being "leant on", claims simply that after two visits from the Anti-Terrorist Branch last week it felt it was being "drawn into Middle Eastern politics rather than pure publishing".

Bowling alley

The excitement of hearing Christopher Cowdrey bowl his first over in test match cricket in Bombay yesterday proved too much for his father, Colin. So engrossed was he with the car radio commentary that he turned the wrong way up a one-way street in London and was flagged down by a policeman. Fortunately, Cowdrey Jr chose that moment to take his first test wicket. His father wound down the window to a roar from the crowd and the policeman, recognising the former England captain, joined in the excitement. Cowdrey Sr was sent on his way unbooked - rueing merely the fact that in 114 tests he had never taken a wicket.

Closer

Chief Superintendent John Nesbitt is not a popular figure among striking South Yorkshire miners. Not only does he regularly organise police operations at picket lines, but in May he arrested Arthur Scargill for alleged obstruction at Orgreave (the case has yet been heard). Back in 1960, however, Nesbitt himself was a miner at Aldwarke Main, near Rotherham. You guessed it: the following year the National Coal Board closed the colliery.

Abridged

Labour councillors in London boroughs threatened by ratecapping are being tempted with a secure future behind bars. London Bridge, a joint committee of local government trade unions, is asking councillors to pledge themselves to fight any cuts in jobs or services, even though this may involve breaking the law. Those not prepared to be banned from office, surcharged or imprisoned should "honourably resign", says the committee. It has asked Labour groups to identify individuals not prepared to sign the pledge, select new candidates who will, and call all by-elections on one preset day. And if councillors refuse to resign or fight? "Then they would become part of the opposition that we're fighting anyway", says London Bridge secretary Ed Hall.

BARRY FANTONI



Action man

After "scooping" *Panorama* by securing Clive Ponting for an exclusive TV programme on his trial the *World in Action* team has been brought to a temporary halt by *The Observer* - the paper which first broke the Ponting story. It emerges that Ponting, the civil servant charged with leaking documents on the Belgrano, has agreed that a book on the trial, which publishers are currently urging him to write should be serialized in *The Observer*. All was well until, as I disclosed last week, *World in Action* also signed up Ponting. This outraged the paper, not because it feared being "scooped", but because of a bitter wrangle currently being fought between the two. Both had apparently agreed to work on a joint TV and newspaper "exclusive" on the former officer who allegedly took documents from the Conqueror after its attack on the Belgrano. Agreements broke down and *The Observer* published last week amidst a slanging match between the two. *World in Action* may now broadcast its scoop on the officer on Monday. Yesterday *The Observer* source said: "We have told Ponting that if he appears on *World in Action* it may well affect our interest in his trial experiences." PHS

Health - on whose authority?

by Michael Meacher

Since 1981 a major change has occurred in the control of the NHS, which will increasingly influence its future direction. Previously all governments, both Tory and Labour, have maintained a broadly bipartisan balance in the composition of the health authorities which administer the service. This is now being radically changed: not by elections, but by political patronage.

At the top of the hierarchy are 14 regional health authorities. Below the regions are the district health authorities: 192 in England, 9 in Wales and 40 in Scotland. The secretary of state directly appoints their chairmen and all of their members, a total of some 550 appointments. Virtually all the chairmen and a majority of the membership are now Tory.

Apart from the chairman, a quarter of the 16 members of each district health authority are appointed by the local council, and the other three-quarters are appointed by the regional health authority. Since the latter members were themselves selected by the secretary of state this gives him indirect patronage over a majority of the membership of 241 district health authorities.

Clearly this gives Mr Norman Fowler, the present health minister, enormous power of appointment over the controlling framework of the NHS. There is considerable evidence that the power has been abused. This might not matter too much if the

Government were pursuing, as previous governments have, a broadly bipartisan policy towards the NHS. But it isn't. Major cuts - 193 hospitals have closed and only 35 built since 1979 - and a large-scale privatisation programme are highly contentious politically.

I therefore put down a Parliamentary Question to Mr Fowler asking for full details of the political balance in the composition of health authorities. He refused to give me such information. I have therefore sent a questionnaire direct to members of health authorities requesting information, which should be made known as a matter of public interest.

The questionnaires already returned clearly justify my concern. They show, for example, that South West Thames Regional Health Authority recently appointed to Wandsworth District Authority a Gloucestershire landowner who is a known Tory supporter, overriding the area's Community Health Council's nomination of a local woman who had worked with the local voluntary health services. At Walsall the Labour chairman was recently dropped, despite 20 years' work with local health services, and replaced by a Tory who had no connection with the health service, but who was chairman of the local Tory Party. At

Merton, a Labour councillor who opposed attempts to extend privatisation into local hospitals was dropped. In the South-west a Labour county councillor was not re-appointed even though he was a nominee of his local Tory council. The secretary of state insisted on a third nomination being made in addition to the two normally submitted, and ended by appointing a local Tory councillor instead.

In the Commons recently I held up a list of people who were not to be re-appointed to district authorities in one of the Thames regions and a corresponding list of those who were to be appointed in their stead, all in accordance with party allegiance. It was written in the handwriting of one of the four Tory members of the six-person regional authority selection panel, with a note at the side of each about which of the four was to propose the switch.

Of course the personal quality and merits of individuals, irrespective of politics, is vital. But it is wholly disingenuous to pretend that people are not heavily influenced by their political predispositions in the decisions they make. That is why the drastic changes in the composition and control of health authorities now taking place is a matter for urgent public scrutiny. The author, Labour MP for Oldham West, is a Shadow spokesman on health and social security.

Robert Fisk looks at the realities behind the PLO meeting in Amman

Arafat talks, but Syria is still the hawk

Beirut. Not long before the start of Yasser Arafat's Palestine National Council meeting in Amman, a squad of Israeli Shin Bet intelligence agents took the road through the upper mountains of the Chouf towards the little village of Ain Dara, where Syrian paratroopers held the ridge above a narrow valley.

It is a broken highway, much of its surface cracked by the tracks of armoured vehicles before the Israeli withdrawal from the area last year. Hebrew signs still lie beside the road and a damaged Syrian T-62 battle tank remains, a mute reminder of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon two years ago.

The Shin Bet mission was a simple one - to liaise with Syrian army officers in Ain Dara and persuade them that it was in the mutual interest of both Syria and Israel to prevent Palestinian guerrillas crossing the frontline from the north to attack Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. The Israeli agents reached Ain Dara, a smothered hamlet in which some of Colonel Rifaat El Assad's military units guard the frontline. They sat down with men who called themselves "representatives" of the Syrians - they were not Syrian military personnel - but they reached no agreement. Both sides understood the need to prevent a full-scale war in the Bekaa Valley between the Israeli and Syrian armies. Both sides, so the Israelis felt, benefited from the exchange of views on the Palestinians.

The whole affair passed off without comment from representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation who were, in any case, far too busy preparing their conference in Amman to worry. When Yasser Arafat was about to be re-elected chairman of the PLO in a legally constituted "parliament-in-exile" and members of that "parliament" were about to give their guarded approval to Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations with Israel for the return of the occupied West Bank, why should some trivial Israeli-Syrian contacts be of interest?

In theory, of course, there is no reason why it should. Down in Amman, Arafat and his colleagues have been enjoying the razzamataz of something approaching a victory celebration, publicly throwing off Syria's influence and aligning themselves - so far as the PLO has ever aligned itself with anyone - with King Hussein of Jordan. At last, so we are to believe, the PLO has heeded the voice of moderation and commonsense and is prepared to negotiate for a homeland with the help of the West's faithful Jordanian ally.

Even this pleasant scenario, however, is misleading. Arafat may have regained the prestige he lost by his unexpected visit to Egypt last year - a brief sojourn that itself followed his military humiliation in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli - but the PLO's executive committee is already laying down rules of its own.

Unlike King Hussein, the PLO will not accept UN Resolution 242 as a basis for negotiations, on the grounds that it refers to the Palestinians as refugees rather than a national people and that it makes no reference to the need for a Palestinian homeland.

The problem, although no-one was indiscreet enough to say so in Amman this week, is that 242 does insist on guaranteeing the "political independence of every state in the area" - and this includes not just Israel but Jordan as well - and when 242 was passed by the UN in 1967, there was no doubt in anyone's mind that the West Bank was part of Jordan.

The PLO has pointed out repeatedly that King Hussein gave up his claim to the West Bank when he accepted the PLO as the sole legitimate representatives of the Palestinians at the Rabat Arab summit in 1974. But the King's determination to regain the West Bank suggests that the PLO is going to have a difficult time maintaining its independence in the new alliance.

There is also precious little in the alliance to entice the Israelis to do any deals. Trading peace for territory may sound fine in Amman, but in Israel this sort of language has been heard before. If the Israelis are still intent on destroying Arafat - as are the Syrians - then they are going to ignore any peace overtures that King Hussein makes, through the UN or anyone else.

In Lebanon - now almost forgotten amid the rhetoric of Amman - the Palestinians are still fighting, together with Lebanese guerrillas. The Palestinian gunmen who have arrived back in the camps around Beirut are from Syrian-sup-



Arafat: a cause for common understanding between Syria and Israel

ported PLO groups sent not so much to wage war on Israel but to prevent any manifestations of loyalty to Arafat. Arafat may control a peace initiative but Syria still possesses the sword. Near Tripoli there are no portraits of Arafat on the walls, but of President Assad of Syria. He is called "protector of the Palestinian people" and that is exactly how the Syrians wish him to appear.

Yet Syria is almost as anxious as Israel to prevent the creation of a revolutionary state on its frontier. When the PLO seemed on the point of setting up such a nation in Lebanon in 1976 President Assad sent his army in to crush it, even at the cost of angering Moscow.

Israel understands Syria's fear. It also understands why Syria wishes to control the PLO. The Jordanians may wish to set up a Palestinian fieldwork, nominally independent but actually loyal to Amman. But just now Syria is in no hurry to see any such state at all - not, at least, the sort of Palestine that would include only the West Bank and the Gaza strip. As always, therefore, Syria and Israel have a very common interest. That is why the Shin Bet men went up to talk to the Syrians at Ain Dara, and why Israel will probably prefer to do deals with Damascus rather than Amman.

businessmen have been reporting this week that their own mini-boom is coming to an end. Talks with the Japanese over coal, Australia's primary export and main market, collapsed last week, and 1,000 miners face redundancy within six months. The Queensland sugar cane growers say they face ruin because of a fall in world prices. Australia's livestock farmers say that if their traditional markets in Asia are about to be closed to them by EEC dumping of surplus meat.

Considering that he places so much faith in continuing growth of exports, Hawke cannot be comforted by the US desire to seek bilateral trade agreements to ease its massive foreign debt problem.

On top of all this, he has during the election campaign given a hostage to fortune by a three-part promise for his next term: government spending will not exceed real economic growth; the budget deficit will be reduced as a proportion of gross domestic product; and tax revenue will not rise as a share of GDP. To allay fears about increased taxation, he has promised a tax summit with all sections of the community early in his new term. Summits are a favourite device of Mr Hawke.

He will need more than his share of luck to keep the accord in being. Already members of the Good Preservers' Union are on strike for wage increases above 5 per cent, but the ACTU has significantly disowned them, knowing for the moment that the priority is to get Bob Hawke back to Canberra.

There is little doubt that he will get there. But his second term in power will be a great deal less charmed than the first.

What Hawke fears is that if Garrett enters the Senate he may encourage minority parties, chiefly the Australian Democrats, to block supply in order to force the Government's hand on nuclear issues. Without supply, the government has only four days' money in the bank. If Garrett gets in, he will be there for six years. But Hawke may be worrying too much. The Democrats are also anti-nuclear, but they have not yet used their crucial position to turn off the taps.

The real problem that Hawke will face if returned to power is the maintenance of the accord with the unions, upon which his whole economic strategy is built. For the accord to work, it is estimated that constant growth in excess of 5 per cent will be required.

In a country which relies heavily on primary industry, there are already warning signs that this will not be achieved. The US economy is slowing again, and Australian

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Hawke is a small but striking man with an immense mop of iron-grey hair and eyes that shine like diamonds - partly thanks to his contact lenses. He radiates intense energy, is never lost for words or facts to prove a point, and is imbued with a messianic determination to lead Australia to the promised land, wherever that might be.

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David Watt

Detente does not mean defeat

Mr Neil Kinnock's visit to Moscow has not achieved very much. How it? An opposition politician from a second-rank country is unlikely to be the recipient of more than a few crumbs of interest and encouragement (possibly poisoned) from the superpower table. Nevertheless, the publicity and controversy surrounding the excursion is an interesting sign of the times.

What this sign portends may best be defined by asking what would have happened if the Labour leader's circus had turned up in the Kremlin at a different time. Nine months earlier, the chill of the East-West relations was so severe that he would have been accused at best of naive time-wasting, at worst fawning on the Empire of Evil. Three months ago, he would have been told to wait for the result of the American presidential election. Three months hence the arms talks and various other related activities will be under way again and the accepted irrelevance of the British Labour Party to the wider picture would have been painfully apparent.

As things turned out Mr Kinnock hit upon exactly the right moment for the maximum publicity. The deep freeze is beginning to thaw under the influence of Mr Reagan's new peace offensive, and on all sides people are trying to work out what this really means. The right have an awful sinking feeling that their hero may be finally going soft. The left are making hay with the proposition that it all goes to show what can be achieved by the forces of moral example and democratic pressure; one more push and a new era of goodwill will dawn.

Like all abrupt turnings on the international scene this is a dangerous corner. It is fatally easy to overreact to a tide of events. Mr Kinnock himself, for instance, is quite rightly criticised by Conservative commentators for coming out of a single meeting with Mr Chernomir with a silly smile of optimism on his face. If (as is not at all clear) there has really been a change in the Soviet position on medium-range weapons in Europe, it has come about because the western alliance resisted the demands of the Labour Party and proceeded to deploy cruise missiles.

As for more parochial British concerns, the matter is still simpler: either Britain needs a nuclear deterrent in principle for last-resort purposes or she does not. If she does, assurances from the present Soviet leadership about Soviet targeting at some time in the future are far too flimsy to affect the issue. If, on the other hand, she renounces nuclear weapons unilaterally, as Labour has proclaimed, then it is pure self-deception to suppose that the Russians will give up anything valuable in return.

But if the left's position is superficial and credulous, many of the attitudes now visible on the right are just as oversimplified and likely to be as harmful in a different way. The thesis which is trumpeted in the US by people such as Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick and contributors to *Commentary*, and of which there are echoes here, starts from the familiar proposition that the Soviet Union is an implacably evil adversary.

It goes on to draw conclusions for the present juncture: (a) detente was a disastrous form of appeasement, therefore we cannot return to it; (b) force is the only thing the Russians understand, therefore we must have a clear superiority of military

strength over them and use it to challenge their pretensions in every corner of the globe; (d) Ronald Reagan (Mark I) was the boy with the right ideas on these questions and it was these ideas that were endorsed by the Americans three weeks ago; Ronald Reagan (Mark II) is an aberrant figure who, we must hope, will now cast aside the motto of the campaign and stand revealed in his true colours again.

These views, if adopted, would have as their main consequence the continuation for another four years, without any real remission, of a world-wide confrontation between the two systems. The economic cost of this would be enormous; the psychological cost even higher, and it is extremely doubtful whether western electorates are prepared to pay them.

Nor are our peoples expected to live for another presidential term at the same pitch of tension and fear that they have supported in the past. They will increasingly rebel if nothing is done to ease matters. In fact they are rebelling now and their rebellion, which has already put the most dangerous strains on the alliance, has only been contained by the president's belated recognition of its significance.

The conservative answer to this is, of course: "So much the worse for us. If the western democracies are so rotten that they cannot face realities, they do not deserve to survive any more than the Greek cities deserved to survive the onslaught of Philip of Macedonia." But this is hardly a satisfactory conclusion in practice.

We are not remotely in the situation of the Greek states for, unlike them, have already put an adequate defence in place. We do not need a Demosthenes to urge us to form Nato. Conversely, the Greeks did not need a Jeane Kirkpatrick to waste her eloquence on suggesting that in order to hold Philip at bay the Athenians and their allies must establish a hegemony over the entire Mediterranean basin. What we do need, however, is a credible and consistent strategy for East-West relations in the near period - one that recognises the realities of Soviet policy and takes the necessary precautions but which at the same time meets the legitimate belief of perfectly staunch and sensible people that abject surrender is not the only alternative to being endlessly locked in a ferocious hand-to-hand struggle with the forces of Soviet communism.

The broad outline of such a policy seems to me to be admirably set out in the *Aspen Institute* paper "Managing East-West Conflict" which came out this week. It will not convince the conservatives, of course, not least because it is signed by some of their most eminent *notres*, but its basic theses are unanswerable.

They are, first, that an adequate defence and detente are not incompatible; secondly, that there are important areas of common interest between East and West - including trade, arms control and the management of Third-World conflict - which should be explored and can safely be expanded; and thirdly, that the process of continuous communication and dialogue is important for its own sake.

It seems to me that the only possible justification for rejecting any of these propositions would be a belief that the democracies cannot be trusted to put them into effect without giving everything away. In spite of Mr Kinnock, I do not believe this is so.

Philip Howard

Thunderer's role of honour

"Hit them first, and hit them hard, lads", the pack leader used to growl to the huddle with heads down and bottoms out at half time. You may not be aware of it. But from my vantage point I can see descending upon you a tidal wave of celebrations for the bicentenary of the foundation of *The Times*. And good fun they are going to be. Before the wave breaks with a thunder of trumpets and spindrift of purple prose, I think it is worth hitting you first, and getting a word in edgewise on the subject of the aged organ.

1. It was luck as well as good journalism that made *The Times* survive to become the oldest daily newspaper in English, rather than one of the eight rival morning and nine rival London evening newspapers already being published on January 1, 1785. It was originally published as a gimmick to advertise a new printing process. But John Walter was more successful as a newspaper proprietor than as a printer. He was the man who set the robust precedent for newspaper proprietors of going to prison to protect his sources.

2. The view of *The Times* as the mouthpiece of the Establishment is ignorant. Its finest hours have always been when it was attacking the established wisdom of the day, usually for historical reasons, from a position slightly left of centre. Its traditional political line is the lofty, and sometimes truthful, one that the world would be a better place if it were run from Printing House Square or the Gray's Inn Road.

3. The cure for thinking of *The Times* as stuffy is to read its history. The first big picture on the front page nearly two centuries ago was the plan of a house in which a ghastly murder had taken place. From 1804 it had a fashion column, describing in suitably frilly prose what the well-dressed *Times* reader (or more accurately his wife) was wearing. It got its sobriquet *The Thunderer* not from its thunder of Reform or the Crimea, but from its

vulgar attempts to uncover a sexual scandal in high places.

4. The cure for thinking of *The Times* as the lapdog of Downing Street is to read what the politicians have said about it, from Palmerston to Churchill and beyond. Lord John Russell wrote: "If England is ever to be England again, this vile tyranny of *The Times* must be cut away. Cobden called it 'the bloody old Times', and Prince Albert 'that wicked paper'. Queen Victoria instructed her ministers to send to Coventry anybody connected with the 'execrable publication'."

5. There is no particular virtue in age for a newspaper. What matters is Tomorrow's issue. Not Yesterday's Sixteen Thousand. The most important thing that *The Times* pioneered was the idea of an independent newspaper that was allied to no party, but spoke for England. At the time this seemed an outrageously revolutionary notion; over though it seems obvious today. The founding fathers of *The Times* led the way to a free-ish press, in the same way and at the same time as Nelson was reinventing the Navy and Arnold the public schools.

6. The editorial independence of *The Times* has always been founded on commercial success. It thundered when it was making profits, often vast profits and a licence to print money. It squeaked when it was making losses. There may be a connection both ways between the two phenomena.

7. The concept of the *Times* man, of Printing House Square theology, is a rum, but real one. They are a mixed lot, from the secretive Barnes to the extrovert Delane, from the gregarious Billy Russell to the amiable rascal Blowitz, from Flora Shaw in her black travelling dress to Sir William Haley, looking like an Old Testament prophet, and not one of your minor ones like Habakkuk. I think that one of the common factors was that they knew that they were working for the greatest newspaper in the world.



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WHO SPEAKS FOR EUROPE?

Who speaks for Europe? Today Chancellor Kohl is in the United States while Mrs Thatcher is in France. On Monday in Dublin the ten members of the European Community gather to enlarge their membership by another two, Spain and Portugal. Diplomatic life in the new Europe is corrugated with activity in a variety of multinational groupings, but none has yet developed any greater focus than that which could be applied to the North Atlantic Alliance for many years.

However, as confidence in the Alliance has waned, its legitimacy has been eroded on both sides of the Atlantic. The result is mutual suspicion based on a widening gap of incomprehension which goes beyond the political and military domain.

American policymakers have for some time been alarmed by the evidence of a decline in European public support for the United States. Mr Reagan is almost certainly more popular now in Poland than he is in West Germany. Moreover some sections of West European society unmistakably display a certain unreasoning anti-Americanism which catches Washington on the raw. Americans rightly resent the spectacle of their unpopularity. They measure it against the enormous military support which is still provided for Europe. They take note of the fact that although European governments frequently resent American power and responsibility there is little evidence that they are prepared to shoulder more of it themselves.

The struggle for Europe's soul is not yet won. It is not just that half of Europe's old nations are imprisoned in a system not of

their choosing. Even in the West it would not yet be possible to predict with confidence how European society will develop in the future. The Community ideal is to put conflict behind us and to confine national rivalries to the resolution of arguments about dairy quotas and suchlike. But the vision of the future beyond that tends to be more about shape than substance with the European visionaries thinking about a geographical Community, but with only rudimentary ideas about the direction it would take.

The experience of the European Community to date does not suggest that the underlying question - Have Europeans yet chosen a full or only a relative economic freedom? - has yet been put or answered. The economic growth and power of the United States is creating an ever-widening gap of achievement across the Atlantic, from where the view now would be that the struggles and the strikes of Europe indicate that the proximity of East Europe still exercises some baleful influence on the outcome of this argument. Who would have expected Great Britain, after five years of Thatcher government, to be enduring a prolonged coal strike in which sections of society still seem to be undecided in the choice between a liberated economy and one which if violence prevailed, would rapidly assume the characteristics of the controlled economies of East Europe?

There is a task here for European leadership. On this side of the Atlantic it is necessary to recognize that somebody must interpret the Europeans to the Americans as much as vice versa. The Americans need to be

reassured that the European societies have sufficient self-confidence and optimism to win the contemporary struggles which Americans never had to fight.

The task for a European leadership is therefore to show the United States that these old cultures and old societies have the capacity to adjust to modernity without being self-conscious about it. Europeans do not need to extol their skills at "problem-solving", but a contentment so bred on war is bound to retain a latent fear of war. Societies which are so clustered together and which have so much of their heritage to conserve are bound to anguish about the environment, the encroachments of machines and the disruption of old patterns caused by the galloping pace of change.

These are common concerns of Europeans. Somebody needs to represent them to the United States Administration in a way which reassures the American leadership that this is not just special pleading since it springs from a European readiness to accept full responsibilities in the alliance, about which Americans have had their legitimate doubts.

At the start of a new American Administration there is now an opportunity to repair the erosion of Alliance sentiment. In four years much restoration could be achieved provided that European leaders recognize the opportunity and take advantage of it. Mrs Thatcher has acquired a considerable European personality after five years in office. Has she now the capacity to take up this opportunity to embody the hopes, fears and affinities of the alliance? Can she, in short, speak for Europe?

LIMITS OF THE LAW

The United States and Nicaragua have a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation. Last April Nicaragua brought suit in the International Court of Justice against the United States for conducting military and paramilitary activity in Nicaragua and in the waters off its coast - for supporting the *Contras* and mining the approaches to Nicaraguan harbours. Last Monday the Court decided in favour of Nicaragua and against the United States that it had jurisdiction in the case and that Nicaragua's case was admissible. On the same day President Reagan received the credentials of a new Nicaraguan Ambassador. An observer from another planet would certainly be perplexed, and the lay reader of the *Hague Law Report* may be equally in need of guidance.

First, what happened at the Hague? The United States failed to get off this particular hook on a series of arguments. A crude résumé would be that the Court found no critical defect in Nicaragua's earlier acceptances of its jurisdiction, did not agree that other parties in Central America's conflicts had to be represented, did not consider its jurisdiction to be precluded in disputes before the Security Council of the United Nations or the subjects of other negotiations, and did not accept that the United States' declaration of 6 April 1984, refusing the court's jurisdiction in Central American matters for two years, had been made in time: the

United States in the terms of its adherence to the court had been bound to give six months' notice of any such refusal. The voting varied on particular points, but the United States never did better than five votes to eleven. The Court will now proceed to consider the merits of the case, with or without United States participation.

In what general context should one place these judgments? States large and small, East and West, have for many reasons been notoriously reluctant to accept the Court's jurisdiction. The United States' terms of adherence have always contained a longer list of reservations than most. The vast majority of international conflicts never get near the Court at all, and the Court has nothing beyond moral power to enforce its decisions. It is therefore tempting to dismiss Monday's judgment as another manifestation of the arcane workings of public international law, without consequence in the real world. That would be hasty. The Hague Court is not *Unesco*. The principles of international law have not been evolved for nothing. They are of particular interest to small states, and most states in the world are small. America, historically the oldest grouping of former colonies in the world, has perhaps the highest regard for this tradition, and has made a substantial contribution to it.

But it would be equally hasty to dismiss on the strength of Monday's judgment the United States' argument that the Inter-

national Court is not "The proper forum" for resolving the problems of Central America and for safeguarding the legitimate interests of the United States in that region. To the international lawyer, sovereign states must be equal, but to statesmen they cannot be. The notion of spheres of influence appears to admit of no legal formulation, but such spheres are still a powerful fact of international life. It is a rash small state that would base its policies on the Hague's abstract definitions of its rights. International law is not a full substitute for diplomacy, and rather than looking to the learning of the Hague the Nicaraguans should look to the wisdom of Helsinki.

What can make that other than a pious hope? Just as sovereignty in practical international affairs, is a relative principle, so self-determination is a phrase that should be much more closely examined, and Washington's current rhetoric in favour of Latin American democracy deserves more credence than it gets. The present Nicaraguan government has no clear mandate for establishing and then exporting the ideology of a Marxist Nicaragua allied with Cuba and the Soviet Union. President Reagan and it is worth noting, his congressional critics, have recently given certain limits of the Hague cannot obscure these extra-legal facts of the matter.

The Reader in Applied Social Studies estimates that five times as many publications of staff in the department appear in non-Marxist journals as in those which might be labelled as Marxist by Digby Anderson.

The Polytechnic of North London is committed to both academic excellence and to vocational training. It is an institution that professional tutors in health visiting, district nursing and social work spend more time in professional practice, and in training activities and consultancy, than in the traditional academic pursuit of "publish or perish": there is some necessary division of labour. The polytechnic publishes research reports on a regular basis which are freely available on request.

Yours faithfully,
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IN LIFE THE FIRMEST

Dogs are loved, cause human loneliness, bark at burglars, lead the blind, retrieve shot woodcock, round up sheep, catch rats, exercise their owners and brighten things up. The also bite, are neglected, stray, cause car crashes, worry sheep, won't stop barking at night, pass on diseases and defecate at large. Like other contributors to human society, of which they are unquestionably a part, they have their good and bad points; and like others they must submit to be socialized.

If there were a Barbara Woodhouse in every household there would be no problem. But until that happy day an owner will hang about public authority to "do something about it".

The problem may be quantified in the following revolting way (by courtesy of Manchester University's department of community medicine). On the last count in 1976 there were six million dogs in Great Britain. The evidence of one's senses suggests the number has not diminished, least of all wherever one happens to live. Six million dogs deposit on average four and a half million litres of urine and one million kilograms of faeces.

The same authority estimates 30,000 infected dog bites a year, 16,000 new cases of toxocarosis a year, a complaint that may

affect the eyes, and 13,000 cases of enteritis of canine origin. The precision of these ailments figures is of course contested, and cats, which are much too smart ever to be licensed, must shoulder some of the blame.

That measures only part of the case for doing something about dogs, the part that is most acutely experienced in dense urban areas. In other places the nuisance of sheep worrying counts for more. Another part of the case arises from consideration for the welfare of the dogs themselves, the prevalence of abandonment and neglect.

Governments have tiptoed round the question for ten years, uncertain which way the canine vote falls. Meanwhile the cost of collecting the dog licence exceeds the sum pouched by a factor of three. The fee is 37p, meaning less unless expressed as 7s 6d. The 1p drop out of the coinage on January 1 necessitating the first change in the rate for 106 years. It is to be rounded down, down mark you, to 37p. And, another creep forward, after a working party and two parliamentary committees there is now a consultation paper, the lineaments of which make good sense.

The national licence would be abolished. Local authorities at

FRIEND

district level would be empowered, not required, to step in with licensing schemes of their own. There would be certain mandatory exceptions as for working sheepdogs and dogs for the blind, and there would be fee-capping (a figure of £10 is mentioned) lest any manipulative minority with a thing against dogs should get loose in Islington or wherever. Otherwise each council would have discretion to make its own arrangements, or none, for registration, control, dog catchers and wardens.

Since the million kilograms a day is deposited unevenly over the surface of the island, and since different parts experience different aspects of the dog problem in different degrees, regulation is a suitable matter for local option. And it is good to find the environment department still capable of thinking other than centralizing thoughts.

Where there are licences they should be set at a level not to discourage the keeping of a dog, but at a level reflecting the cost of measures deemed necessary to make the place safe and decent against its resident dogs. The polluter pays, and if he pays whether or not the manners of his particular dog give rise to offence, that is just one of those minor injustices of the collective

How World Bank vets loans

From the Director of the European Office of the World Bank

Sir, In your leader of November 27 you refer to "World Bank schemes which start, finish and are funded in a miasma of obfuscations". This is a glib phrase but a very inaccurate one.

Before a World Bank loan is presented to the board of executive directors for approval the project is financed has been extensively appraised by economists and technical and financial specialists to ensure its viability and an acceptable rate of return (or cost/benefit ratio).

The board, at which Her Majesty's Government is represented by a permanent executive director, is provided with documents detailing this appraisal and the directors question the staff on loan proposals which they must approve before the project can go ahead.

Following approval of the loan, funds are disbursed only against invoices, most of which are for contracts based on international competitive bidding. During the period of disbursement the bank staff continually supervises the project's implementation.

The staff writes a project completion report and then separate departments, which report directly to the board of executive directors, conduct an extensive audit. This extremely frank document assesses the qualitative as well as the quantitative results of the project against the expectations at the time of original board approval and is given to all the bank's member governments.

This way the lessons of experience are applied to future projects. A synthesis of these reports which details all the things that went wrong in the projects is made public each year.

The latest such report was given to the Editor of *The Times*. It is a pity that the writer of the November 27 leader doesn't appear to have read it.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE P. BART, Director,
European Office,
World Bank,
66 Avenue d'Iéna,
75116 Paris, France.
November 27.

Research at PNL

From Mr N. C. A. Parry

Sir, I have just seen Digby Anderson's piece, "Thrashing around for incentive" (November 14). I cannot think what hidden injuries have been done by Dr Paul Corrigan to Digby Anderson to warrant his scathing outpourings on the occasion of Dr Corrigan's resignation from the Polytechnic of North London. But that is a matter for them. Personally, I am sorry that he is leaving because he is widely recognised as an excellent teacher and head of department.

However, Digby Anderson also refers disparagingly to the research record of the Department of Applied Social Studies. He does so in rough quantitative terms without giving any comparative data about departments in other polytechnics and universities. I think that such a comparison would be instructive, and by no means to the detriment of PNL.

Her Majesty's Inspectors and the CNAA (Council for National Academic Awards) publicly praised the research record of the department and the research option in our full-time degree in applied social studies. The department has raised more than £750,000 in externally funded research during the past five years. The sources of funding include the Home Office, the DHSS and the Economic and Social Research Council. The research has yielded much useful empirical data and is related to practical and policy-related issues (nothing to do with Marxism).

The Reader in Applied Social Studies estimates that five times as many publications of staff in the department appear in non-Marxist journals as in those which might be labelled as Marxist by Digby Anderson.

The Polytechnic of North London is committed to both academic excellence and to vocational training. It is an institution that professional tutors in health visiting, district nursing and social work spend more time in professional practice, and in training activities and consultancy, than in the traditional academic pursuit of "publish or perish": there is some necessary division of labour. The polytechnic publishes research reports on a regular basis which are freely available on request.

Yours faithfully,
NOEL PARRY, Chairman,
Faculty of Social Studies,
The Polytechnic of North London,
Department of Sociology,
Ladbroke House,
Highbury Grove, N5.

Parole changes

From Dr Julian Candy

Sir, Mr Brittan and his parole policy changes as they affect certain life and long determinate sentence prisoners may have been "vindicated in law" (leader, November 16), but this cannot and does not establish the propriety of those changes. No one, least of all their Lordships, would claim that what is legal is necessarily just.

Setting on one side the manifest and acknowledged injury done to the four prisoners who brought the action, and others who stand behind them, the central issue over which I resigned from the Parole Board almost exactly a year ago remains: to these men justice is not now meted out impartially according to the individual's deserts and dangerousness, but rather by reference to the category of crime which he has committed.

To introduce for consideration undefined and undefinable "exceptional circumstances" may assist in

Market forces and higher education

From Professor Michael F. Thomas

Sir, Sir Keith Joseph has recently reiterated (BBC Radio 4 UK news, 2800 November 27) the argument that increased funding for important scientific research in Britain's universities must come from savings in the cost of educating undergraduates. Such a premise is manifestly absurd. I am not aware, for instance, that increases in defence spending are to be borne by soldiers or their parents.

If, as Sir Keith argues, university research is deemed vital to the creation of wealth and more broadly to the wellbeing of the nation, then its funding cannot become a question of marginal and arbitrary taxation of education.

To state further, that, after providing a reduced level of grant, the student remains highly subsidised through a low level of fees, also ignores the research role of the universities which regularly spend a high proportion of their grant on research support.

Springing as it does from a false premise the logic of this observation could also become absurd if, for example, students of physics were to be charged an "economic" fee to cover the costs of their higher education. Such a fee would be astronomical alongside the equivalent for, say, history.

Scrutiny of Government policy for higher education since 1981 offers those involved in its provision little encouragement, marked as it has been by sudden, large and more or less arbitrary shifts in funding of universities and student grants.

The market price for many of the provisions of advanced technology will never be affordable by individuals. Therefore moves by government towards a system of education in which you pay for the product must ultimately be self-defeating.

The danger of the continuing cuts is that they will undermine the fragile optimism of the young and compound the hardening cynicism of the middle-aged. Neither, surely, can be the intentional outcome of deliberate policy. Since such dangers are real, that policy should now be urgently reappraised.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL F. THOMAS,
Department of Environmental Science,
University of Stirling,
Stirling,
November 27.

From Mrs A. B. Franklin

Sir, As a potential victim of the Government's deplorable intention to make some parents liable for their children's university fees, I am curious to know how the money is to be extracted from the parental bank account, and whether the universities and local authorities have been consulted on the procedure.

At present parents who know that their income is too large for payment of more than the minimum grant do not declare their income but sign the form provided by the

Violence on TV

From the President of the National Viewers and Listeners Association

Sir, I do not think that the very many people who are concerned about the role of television in the creation of an increasingly violent society are likely to be reassured by Dr Robert Towler's statement (November 22) that the IBA is about to present us with yet another publication. After all, the previous ones have had little enough effect upon programme standards. Indeed, they have amounted to not much more than public relations exercises.

Dr Towler says we must tackle the question of "what constitutes television violence". Heaven help us - as we did not know.

What is most urgently needed is less talk and far more action to demonstrate the will and determination of the IBA to put into effect its published codes on the portrayal of violence.

If I may say so, with respect, it would more become Mr John Whitney, Director General of the IBA, if he ceased to defend the indefensible by stating (November 8) that there is "no evidence" of a link between television and social violence. He could better ensure, on the studio floor and in the film viewing room if he need be, that these enlightened codes, within which his staff are supposed to operate, are actually followed.

If he had done so, I doubt if viewers would have been treated, for example, to the spectacle of an innocent man being murdered by having his neck broken on the edge of a toilet in a most brutal and bloody fashion (*The Glory Boys*, October 3). I could go on.

Yours sincerely,
MARY WHITEHOUSE, President,
National Viewers and Listeners Association,
Ardsley,
Colchester, Essex.

establishing the legality of the policy, but in practice merely sets up an additional criterion for parole which, because it is hidden, these prisoners cannot make any rational attempt to meet - in itself a fundamental departure from the principles underlying the parole scheme from its inception.

It is precisely because parole is a privilege and not a right that special care is needed to ensure that its operation conforms to the requirement that justice, both in the courtroom and beyond, bears equally and separately on each offender.

Of course the Home Secretary, who claims to be so closely attuned to public concerns in this area, may properly take action if he considers that sentences for certain classes of crime are too short. But to express concern by influencing, both retrospectively and prospectively, the effective time to be served by particular classes of offenders not only destroys the judicial and public expectation that similar sentences will have similar effects, but also

local education authority, which then pays fees to the university and the grant to the student.

Are we now to sign a form authorizing the L.E.A. to bill us for the fees; or will the student be responsible for payment of the fees and rely on parents to refund him or her; or will the university charge parents directly? All of these possibilities are fraught with difficulties, both legal and practical. What, for example, will happen to those students whose parents refuse to sign the form at all?

This decision has all the signs of being yet another case of the present Government's growing habit of making hasty decisions which are ill-prepared and impractical. This one will save little money and generate much work and more bad feeling. I trust it is not too late for second thoughts.

Yours faithfully,
ANN FRANKLIN,
11 Rowden Close,
Totteridge, N20.

From Professor P. D. J. Weitzman

Sir, A plea of financial hardship will become your correspondent, Mr C. A. Giles (leader, November 23), who complains that his declining years are threatened by the Government's proposals to increase parental support to university students. Society is indeed grateful for his war service and his efforts to "establish a better life for all", but please let us not lose all sense of perspective.

Mr Giles asserts that he and his wife were "determined" that their son should enjoy the opportunity of a university place. Does not such determination imply a willingness to accept parental responsibility beyond school so that children may enjoy the advantages and long-term benefits of further education?

Sir Keith Joseph's message is that financial pressures on education have made it impossible to continue generous contributions to the personal maintenance of all students. Fairness demands that these parents on high incomes should accept more of the costs for their own children, while those earning less receive additional assistance. This is part of the "better life for all" that Mr Giles espouses.

I trust few readers will consider it unjust that someone who apparently has a residual income of £17,000 should set aside 10 per cent of this to support a son at university, remembering that any other children studying concurrently will receive a substantial grant. Determination should be made of sterner stuff.

Readjustment of grants will also be used to support expenditure on the hard-pressed research councils and on scientific equipment, thereby contributing to the excellence of our universities and thus directly benefiting both students and society.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. J. WEITZMAN,
University of Bath,
School of Biological Studies,
Claverton Down,
Bath, Avon.

Banking procedure

From Sir John Prideaux

Sir, Since early October the name of Johnson Matthey Bankers has been continually in the news, accompanied by criticism of the Bank of England's handling of banking and political points of view.

Has sufficient thought been given to what would have happened if, during the fateful weekend, the Bank had just allowed market forces to prevail?

Already there had been rumours on the Continent that a London merchant bank was in difficulty. But, at the opening of business on October 1, the news that the Bank of England had decided to organise the support of Johnson Matthey Bankers dispelled the uncertainty.

Maybe that the first plan for the indemnity arrangements needed modification and that the final outcome is preferable, but, as the Governor put it in his Mansion House speech: "One cannot always deliberate over the design of the house when the kitchen is on fire."

Admittedly, the clearing banks appear to be asked to accept a considerable liability - as also do the accepting offices. They have good reason to feel that they are being called upon to put their funds at risk for the public good, particularly when they have recently received harsh treatment at the hands of the Treasury.

Possibly the Bank of England should have taken action earlier, and undoubtedly procedures are now being carefully reviewed, but would it have been better if nothing had been done? Mr. own view, shared by others, is that all would have suffered as a consequence of the failure of a recognised bank.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PRIDEAUX,
Elderslie,
Ockley,
Dorking, Surrey.

renders the Home Secretary an intrusive third party at the transaction between judge and offender at the time sentence is passed.

This represents a dangerous precedent. What categories of crime may we speculate will be added to or removed from the list of essentially non-paroleable offences at future party conferences - a list which, it seems, is wholly within the Home Secretary's personal discretion, not subject to parliamentary scrutiny?

This Administration has stressed its commitment to the advancement of law and order. In its zeal to carry out this laudable aim it here puts at risk this country's high reputation for fairness at all stages of the judicial process, a reputation every administration should strive to maintain.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN CANDY,
Griffiths,
Hardwicke,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire,
November 17.

Challenging voice of authority

From Sir William Hayter

Sir, Mrs Thatcher speaks with disapproval of the minority, by manipulating the democratic system, effectively co-opting the majority (report, November 27).

Since only a minority of the voters supported her party at the last election, perhaps she ought to be a little more careful about imposing her "conviction politics" on the rest of us.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM HAYTER, Warden,
New College,
Oxford,
November 27.

From Mr Robert Bromage

Sir, Perhaps the fashionable disrespect for the views of the majority, of so much concern to the Prime Minister, is related to the fashion of the current Government. On the "mandate" of barely one third of the electoral vote it chooses increasingly to ignore opposing views in the Commons, the Lords, and the Church.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BROMAGE,
7a Manor Park Drive,
Yateley,
Camberley,
Surrey,
November 28.

Miners at war

From Mr W. Williams

Sir, *Tempora mutantur*... The Earl of Stockton says (report, November 14) "a terrible strike is being carried on by the best men in the world. They beat the Kaiser's army and they beat Hitler's army. They never gave in."

Apart from being in a reserved occupation (many admittedly volunteered in 1914-15) the miners' contribution to the national effort was, in both wars, regarded at the time as somewhat short of whole-hearted.

In March, 1944, *Punch* published, over the caption, "Striking in the West", a political cartoon of a British soldier saying to an idle miner: "When are you going to put up your Iron Cross?"

Yours faithfully,
W. WILLIAMS,
London Wall Buildings, EC2,
November 22.

Family money

From Mr H. J. Blumenthal

Sir, Many of the Commonwealth citizens who visit the United Kingdom do so as the children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, of the people of this country. It is monstrous that one should be taxed £10 for visiting one's grandmother - and double if one brings one's spouse!

Thus does the Prime Minister's obsessive desire to make us pay for everything expose the real value of her commitment to the family.

Yours faithfully,
H. J. BLUMENTHAL,
25 Ashburton Road,
Birkenhead,
Merseyside,
November 23.

Printing hieroglyphs

From Mr T. G. H. James

Sir, In his entertaining article on recent research in Egyptology (November 22) Mr John Ray failed to do full justice to recent developments in the printing of hieroglyphs by computer.

If he had been at the Paris colloquium, which he reports, he would have heard a paper in which an account was given of the recent completion of the computerisation by the Oxford University Press, of the finest modern hot-metal hieroglyphic font, namely that associated with the late Sir Alan Gardiner.

The resulting system can reproduce the old hot-metal forms precisely and it in every way shows itself potentially to be superior to any other system devised elsewhere.

In carrying through this development, the OUP has performed a service of great value to the discipline of Egyptology and also to the history of printing.

Yours faithfully,
T. G. H. JAMES, Chairman,
Egypt Exploration Society,
3 Doughty Mews, WC1,
November 23.

Fair exchange

From Professor L. S. Pressnell

Sir, With the greatest precision, the Vice-President of American Express Europe has revealed his belief (November 9) that his institution "invented the traveller's cheque" on a wet Wednesday in Leipzig in 1891. Did he mean to have written "re-invented"?

It was Robert Herries who seems first to have devised the traveller's cheque, in 1769 or 1770. He set up The London Exchange Banking Company, with others, in 1772 in St James's Street, London, to issue these useful instruments (R. S. Sayers, *Lloyds Bank in the History of English Banking*, 1957, pp 193-8).

Yours sincerely,
L. S. PRESSNELL,
Boundary House,
St Stephen's Hill,
Canterbury,
Kent,
November 10.

A wash-out

From Mr James Luckhurst

Sir, Mindful, as a student always is, of future employment, I was rather taken by the following information in a graduate employment register: "National Water Council - the National Water Council was dissolved in September, 1983."

Yours faithfully,
JAMES LUCKHURST,
St David's University College,
Llanelli,
Dyfed.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

You must always have your card available when claiming.

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Claimants should ring 0254-53272

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities firm again

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 26. Dealings End, Dec 7. Contango Day, Dec 10. Settlement Day, Dec 17.

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E	1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E	1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E	1984 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68
69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76
77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92
93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Triumphant Telecom now looks overseas

Mr Geoffrey Pattie, the Minister for Information Technology, probably had mixed feelings yesterday when he visited one of the City banks counting of British Telecom share applications. The counting process itself is all fingers and thumbs; a hard manual slog for those involved. But neither he nor the Government can have any complaint about the result of the banking clerks' labour. Not only has British Telecom been successfully transferred to the private sector, it will start its new life with the wide cast of shareholders - many of them first-time investors in the stock market - which ministers have been so keen to achieve.

Counting was still going on last night, but the indications are that the final tally when it is announced this weekend will show that about two million people have applied for a stake in the business. Allowing for the likely wave of early sellers and the fact that some "stags" have inevitably slipped through the right security net, there is no doubt that the cause of wider share ownership has taken a significant step forward.

If marketing surveys carried out by Mori turn out to be correct, many of those who have bought shares for the first time intend to hold their BT stake as long-term investment. The Government and Kleinwort, Benson can help the cause by ensuring that the small investor gets preferential treatment when the allocations are decided.

With the British institutional placing and the public offering both out of the way, attention now turns to the third leg of the three part BT deal - the overseas offering. Just under 14 per cent of the three billion BT shares for sale have been reserved for three foreign centres - the United States, Canada and Japan. The split of the 415 million shares available between New York, Toronto and Tokyo will be decided on tomorrow and announced on Sunday, paving the way for trading in BT's shares to begin simultaneously on both sides of the Atlantic on Monday (at 3 pm British time unless there is a last minute hitch).

The expectation is that the Americans led by Morgan Stanley, will receive 180 million shares, the Japanese, led by Nomura Securities, a similar number, and the Canadians, 55 million. In all three

places demand for stock has been running ahead of the amount on offer - underlining the skillful way in which Kleinworth has underpinned the competitive pricing of the BT issue by engineering shortage of stock in three competing markets.

There is a price to pay for this, needless to say. The North American underwriters will be paid handsomely for their part in the exercise, receiving roughly double the British underwriting commission without having to hold the shares on risk for anything like as long or having to undertake the keen marketing which normally justifies higher underwriting fees in the United States.

Once the overseas exercise is completed, all eyes will turn to the Stock Exchange on Monday and the start of trading. BT shares will clearly open a premium, with many brokers talking happily of 20p or even 30p over the 130p issue price. Experience and political reality suggests that these hopes may be exaggerated, at least initially. Too large an immediate premium would inevitably lead to political accusations that the issue has been underpriced. Kleinworth is likely to pull out all the stops to ensure that the opening premium is kept within "acceptable" bounds. As was shown with the Jaguar flotation in the summer, the City has its mysterious ways of keeping control of the market.

On this basis a premium of 15p to 17p - a margin of 13-14 per cent over the 130p issue price - is a sound bet, and would not be unreasonable on fundamental grounds. For the first few days there will not be that much stock around. Many investors are prudently waiting to hear precisely how many shares they stand to receive. The basis of allocation should be known on Monday morning but formal letters of acceptance are not being posted until December 6th, three days after dealings start.

The Stock Exchange has, meanwhile, sensibly relented on its decision - reported in *The Times* this week - to close the public gallery on Monday afternoon. A handful of the public will now be able to squeeze in alongside the press and various dignitaries to see BT's arrival on the floor. Trading hours are being extended to 6pm. Although only BT shares will be traded after 3.30pm.

Bank attacked on loan stock

Some of the new proposals from the Bank of England on the vexed question of subordinated loan capital are meeting with horrified reactions from senior bankers: "ill-conceived" and "impractical" were some of the politer epithets applied yesterday to its most unpopular aspects. There is little doubt that strong representations will shortly be on the way to the Bank of England, in an attempt to make it rethink a number of its ideas.

Loan stock has become an increasingly popular source of capital for the banks in recent years, because it is cheap to raise compared with equity, especially when bank shares are trading at large discounts to assets. The new innovation this year was the perpetual floating rate note, which bankers claim should be viewed more as equity than as debt, since it never has to be repaid.

Both Barclays and NatWest have already issued fairly similar perpetual floaters, but neither would count as primary capital under the proposed regulations. These stipulate, among other

things, that there would have to be automatic conversion of perpetual debt into equity if a bank runs into trouble in order for it to count as primary capital.

This looks certain to ensure that no other banks will now bother to issue perpetual floaters even if the market would accept such modified instruments. But more worrying for the banks are the new proposals to emerge covering traditional subordinated debt. Although existing loan issues would not be affected, the Bank is now proposing that future issues should be free of any early repayment or default clauses which are now quite common.

Furthermore, it wants clauses in the documentation saying early repayment can only be made with the Bank of England's consent, and it wants the loan conditions made subject to English law. Bankers believe this last proposal could shut them off from the important overseas domestic markets such as New York and Switzerland, while arguing that the Bank's proposals generally are likely to push up the cost of debt issues.

Dunlop capital reconstruction concentrates on sports goods

By Ian Griffiths

The announcement of the capital reconstruction at Dunlop Holdings, the ailing tyre group now headed by Sir Michael Edwards, is planned for December 19. The announcement will contain bad news for shareholders, who could see up to 90 per cent dilution in their equity investment.

Last night, however, informed sources revealed that although December 19 was the target date for sending out details of the new financial package, which is essential for Dunlop's survival, the complexity of obtaining agreement from the 47 banks involved could result in a delay until early January.

The package will be in three parts. The banks are to convert around £70 million of Dunlop's debt to equity. A further £100 million will be raised by the disposal of Dunlop assets, and shareholders and

other investors will be asked to contribute an additional £70 million of new capital.

Financial advisers to the company have already been urging institutional investors to invest in Dunlop. The company is unusual in that it has very little institutional investment. With its small shareholders unlikely to subscribe enthusiastically to the rights issue, the City's support is important.

The sales approach is that Dunlop should be viewed almost as a venture capital investment. Its shape will be substantially different, with much more attention paid to sports equipment and diversified products. The response to the suggestion has so far been described as favourable.

The sale of Dunlop assets will not, however, be as rapid as first been thought. Sir Michael will be allowed to carry out an orderly divestment programme



Sir Michael: may sell US tyre interests

which will mean Dunlop can hold on to its higher quality assets.

The group last week agreed in principle to sell its 31 per cent stake in Dunlop Malaysian Industries to Sime Darby, which would remove about £50 million from the group's total

debts of £380 million. There has also been a lot of interest in Dunlop's Indian operations, although no firm buyer has yet been found.

It is still unclear whether Sir Michael will decide to sell the group's US tyre interests. When he announced the reorganization of the group's structure earlier this month, the US tyre business was established as a separate profit centre, fuelling speculation that it might be sold.

A complete withdrawal from the tyre market - the European tyre business has already been sold to Sumitomo of Japan - would leave the group free to concentrate on its other products. The US tyre business is profitable, which makes it attractive to Dunlop and also to potential purchasers.

While Dunlop's small shareholders will be upset by the dilution of their investment, by far the biggest loser will be the Malaysian Pegi Corporation. It has a 26 per cent stake

US leading economic indicators fall sharply

From Bailey Morris, Washington

US economic activity fell sharply last month, raising fears that the economy is heading for a sustained downturn early next year.

The Government's index of 10 leading indicators fell 0.7 per cent last month, its third decline in five months after a steady period of solid growth lasting 21 months.

Although some economists said the recent series of declines point to another recession by the middle of next year, most believe the American economy is heading for a period of "growth recession" in which unemployment rises while growth remains steady but weak, at between 2 per cent and 3 per cent.

Mr Malcolm Baldrige, the US Commerce Secretary, yesterday described the October decline as "very disappointing" but he said he expected an improvement in the November-December results.

Much will depend on the strength of consumer spending during the Christmas season. "We are not heading into another recession", Mr Baldrige said.

Stock prices moved lower yesterday in early trading continuing the downward trend of Wednesday when prices fell almost 15 points.

Analysts said markets were becoming increasingly nervous for various reasons including strong signs of a slowdown; anxiety over the massive tax reform plan proposed by the US Treasury and the lack of action to reduce record federal budget deficits.

President Reagan met his budget advisers and congressional leaders at the White House yesterday. They were briefed on the latest deficit-reduction proposal which calls for big cuts in federal spending of about \$235 billion (£196 billion) over three years.

After a meeting with Mr Reagan and cabinet members, Republican leaders in Congress said the budget proposals would not be approved unless they included significant cuts in defence spending.

BAT to spend £99m on Canadian stake

By Jeremy Warner

BAT Industries, the tobacco, retailing and insurance group, is to spend £99 million increasing its shareholding in Imasco, its publicly quoted Canadian associate.

BAT once had majority control of Imasco, a fast-growing company with interests in tobacco, fast food and chemist stores, but it has allowed this to decline and it now owns only 40 per cent of the group.

Imasco will issue 3.4 million new shares to BAT at £346.25 (£29.08) each. The issue will increase the company's share capital by 6.6 per cent and raise BAT's stake to 44 per cent. Imasco intends to seek shareholders' permission to issue about 5.5 million additional

shares for spending on acquisitions. BAT said there was a growing climate of confidence in Canada and the proposed relaxation of investment controls made the country an appropriate place for such a large investment.

Imasco's attempts to expand by acquisition in Canada have been obstructed by the Federal Investment Review Agency, the Canadian regulatory authority, because of its association with a foreign company.

But BAT believes there will now be a relaxation of the way in which regulations are applied.

The group last week announced the sale of the 380-shop International Stores chain for £180 million.

Moray Firth Holdings, the Inverness malt manufacturer, has agreed to a £24 million takeover bid from Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, less than a year after being floated on the Unlisted Securities Market.

The terms are 11 Scottish & Newcastle shares for every four Moray Firth shares and 175p in cash for each Moray Firth

share. There will be a cash alternative offer for the ordinary shares, worth 350p.

Scottish & Newcastle is to use Moray for most of its maltings requirement. Industry sources said they doubted whether Moray Firth would now be able to keep all its existing British customers.

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Gold steady at \$331

Gold held steady in London yesterday closing at \$331.25 an ounce, after falling £2.50 on Wednesday to its lowest point in two and a half years.

Trading was thin, and dealers said that the unexpected strength of the dollar was the main cause of gold's decline.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1187.0 up 0.5 (high: 1189.0; low: 1181.2)
FT Index: 925.8 down 3.4
FT All Share: 83.12 up 0.16
Bargains: 20,114
DataStream USM Leaders Index: 105.88 up 0.37
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1187.85 down 7.73
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 11,386.84 up 118.58
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 1135.11 up 17.48
Amsterdam: 177.8 down 1.6
Sydney: AO Index 745.3 down 5.9
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1084.3 down 6.7
Brussels: General Index 157.99 down 0.24
Paris: CAC Index 181.3 down 0.2

CURRENCIES

STERLING CLOSE
Sterling Index 74.3 up 0.1 (range 74.5-74.4)
DM 3.7020 up 0.0150
FF 11.3050 up 0.0225
Yen 295 unchanged
Dollar Index 142.3 down 0.1
DM 3.0900 up 0.0190
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.2010
Dollar DM 3.0812
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.803558
SDR £0.828835

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9¾-9½
Finance houses base rate 11
Discount market loans week fixed 3½
3 month interbank 9¼
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9¼-9½
3 month DM 15¼-15½
3 month FF 11-10¾
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.25-11.50
Fed funds 8¼
Treasury long bond 10¼-10½
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 3 to November 6, 1984, inclusive: 10.616 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$331.75 pm \$330.60
close \$331-331.50
(\$276.00-276.50)
New York (latest) \$331.00
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$340.50-342.00 (\$283.75-285.25)
Sovereigns (new):
\$77.50-78.50 (\$64.50-65.50)
*Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Du Cann steps up at Lonrho

Mr Edward du Cann, former chairman of the Conservative back-benchers' influential 1922 Committee, yesterday became chairman of Lonrho, the overseas trading group where Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland is chief executive. He succeeds Lord Duncan-Sandys, now in his mid-70s, who has been chairman for 12 years. Lord Duncan-Sandys has been made Lonrho's first life president.

THE ACCOUNTANCY profession's latest attempt to produce a standard for the way companies allow for the impact of inflation in their books has been vetoed by the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

THE ROYAL BANK of Scotland's pretax profits for the year to the end of September rose 37 per cent to £131 million. *Tempos, page 18*

HABITAT MOTHER-CARE, the retail group, has increased pretax profits for the 26 weeks to September 23 from £10.5 million to £12.6 million. Turnover rose from £176 million to £198 million. The interim dividend of 2.4p is up from 2p last time. *Tempos, page 18*

REDLAND, the builders' supplies group, is increasing its interim dividend by 7.5 per cent to 3.575p, after pretax profits rose from £42 million to £48.7 million during the six months' trading to September 29. *Tempos, page 18*

Utilities face 'final demand' curbs

By Philip Robinson

Gas, electricity, water and telephone companies are to be stopped from jumping the creditors' queue when a company collapses.

The utilities had been threatening to cut off services if arrears went unpaid, effectively moving themselves to the top of a priority list of those wanting money.

Mr Alex Fletcher, under secretary for corporate and consumer affairs, told the Commons yesterday that the Government had decided that

the monopoly utilities "should not be able to secure more favourable treatment than other creditors on the insolvency of a customer by threatening to discontinue supplies".

The Government intends to introduce the necessary legislation into the Insolvency Bill, which is due out next week and erected to go before the House of Lords by Friday.

Getting the Bill through likely to be a battle for the Government. It contains sections which

have been sharply criticized by the Institute of Directors.

The main concern is that a director of a company which is compulsorily wound up will be automatically disqualified from holding a directorship unless he can convince a court of his innocence within three months of the winding up date.

It is thought the Lords will want a full debate on the constitutional point of a man being guilty until proved innocent.

Late flurry of criticism on portable pension proposals

By Richard Thomson

Today is the last date on which Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Security Secretary, will accept replies to his consultative document on personal portable pensions published in July.

There has been a last minute flurry of submissions from institutions including the Prudential, the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Save & Prosper and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

The portable pensions debate which has raged since July has produced sharp differences of opinion, but it has also revealed two basic areas of agreement.

One is that some solution to the present problems of the pensioners must be found soon. More than 80 per cent of the working population change jobs at least once during their

working lives and face severe reductions in their pension benefits as a result.

The other area of agreement is that the proposals in Mr Fowler's document are virtually unworkable.

Criticism of the proposals centres round the idea that the new personal pensions should be contracted out of the state pensions scheme.

Many of the submissions object that this causes administrative problems because people would be entitled to a National Insurance rebate calculated on a complicated sliding scale related to age and sex. But who would make these payments and keep track of hundreds of thousands of personal pensions schemes?

Many in the pensions industry agree that the idea of a central pensions clearing house

would be far too expensive. Save & Prosper, among others, believes the Department of Health and Social Security should operate the clearing system.

Many institutions, including the Institute of Chartered Accountants, also object to contracting out because it would not protect the guaranteed minimum pension.

Much of the industry appears to believe, moreover, that Mr Fowler's emphasis on contracting out stems mainly from the Government's desire to take the weight off the state earnings related pensions scheme.

This is expected to become increasingly expensive and costs could be kept down if more pensions were run purely by the private sector.

The National Westminster Bank Group is pleased to announce the opening of its Atlanta office.

Representative: David T. Whitworth, Vice-President

Address: National Westminster Bank PLC,
Suite 600, Peachtree Center, South Tower, 225 Peachtree Street N.E.,
Atlanta, Georgia 30303, USA.

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National Westminster
The Action Bank

National Westminster Bank with offices in: New York, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco, and worldwide representation in: Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, USSR and West Germany.

UNILEVER N.V.

4% REDEMPTABLE CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE SUB-SHARES OF FL 12
ISSUED BY N.V. NEDERLANDSE ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTKANTOOR

The dividend for 1984 of 4% (FL 0.48) Serial No. 71 will be paid on and after 2 January 1985. To obtain this dividend certificate must be held on the following dates:

Midland Bank plc, Stock Exchange Services Department, Mariner House, Papey Street, London EC3N 4DA;
Northern Bank Limited, 2 Waring Street, Belfast BT1 2ES;
Allied Irish Banks Limited, Securities Department, Stock Exchange, Bank Centre, Salford Bridge, Dublin 4;
Clydesdale Bank PLC, 30 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow.

Separate forms are available for use (a) by Banks, UK firms of Stockbrokers, Solicitors or Chartered Accountants (b) by other claimants. Notes on the procedure, in each case, are printed on the forms.

Full details of the dividend may be obtained from the above named banks on and after 27 December 1984.

EXCHANGES of original shares for certificates of sub-shares and vice versa will be SUSPENDED from 14 December 1984 to 27 December 1984 both dates inclusive.

Certificates will only be accepted for exchange after 27 December provided that all dividends have been paid prior to that date have been claimed.

N.V. NEDERLANDSE ADMINISTRATIE-EN TRUSTKANTOOR
London Transfer Office, Unilever House, Stock Exchange, London EC3N 4DG.
28 November 1984.

4% REDEMPTABLE CUMULATIVE PREFERENCE ORIGINAL SHARES
The dividend will be paid on and after 2 January 1985 against surrender of Coupon No. 71. Coupons should be sent to one of the Paying Agents in the Netherlands accompanied by an income tax form for relief from Dutch tax obtainable from Midland Bank plc. Stock Exchange Services Department, Mariner House, Papey Street, London EC3N 4DA, from which full details of the dividend may be obtained.

NOTICE TO INVESTORS & DEPOSITORS

On the following classes of Shares the rates of interest payable from 1st December 1984 will be:

	NET (basic rate tax paid)	GROSS (equivalent to basic rate tax paid)
Cash Counter	6.75%	9.64%
Investment Shares	6.75%	9.64%
7 Day Flexishares II	8.00%	11.43%
28 Day Premium Shares	8.25%	11.79%
60 Day Flexi-Plus Shares	8.75%	12.50%
Regular Savings Shares	8.05%	11.50%

The rates of interest on all other classes of Shares and Deposits except S.A.Y.E., Fixed Rate Term Shares and accounts where the Society is subject to basic rate tax will be reduced by 1.00% p.a. from the same date. The rates of interest on Shares and Deposits where the Society is subject to basic rate tax will be reduced by 0.60% p.a. and 0.80% p.a. respectively from the same date.

NOTICE TO BORROWERS

The rates of interest on all mortgages (in appropriate cases the basic rate) will be reduced by 1.00% p.a. from 1st December 1984. The basic rate will become 12.00% p.a.

Peterborough Building Society

Manor House, 57 Lincoln Road, Peterborough PE1 2SB
Telephone (0733) 51491

Which world famous electronic typewriter manufacturer is also one of Europe's leading computer companies?

7A TRIUMPH ADLER



To find out how the world's second largest electronic typewriter manufacturer answers your business computing questions ring Kate Myles at Triumph Adler on 01-250 1717

7A-World Leaders in Office Communication

Alliance Building Society announces new interest rates.

The following rates of interest will apply to Share and Deposit Accounts from 1st December 1984:

Net per annum	Gross equivalent at 30% income tax rate
8-00%	7-Day Account 11-43%
7-50%	Alliance BankSave (interest paid annually) Share balances up to £2,500 10-71%
8-50%	Share balances £2,500 or over 12-14%
7-75%	Regular Savings (Current Issue) MoneyBuilder Accounts 11-07%
6-75%	Ordinary Shares MoneyReady and Junior Accounts 9-64%

Interest on all other Share and Deposit Accounts will be reduced by 1% net p.a. from 1st December 1984. Fixed Rate Bond, Index-Linked and S.A.Y.E. accounts remain unchanged.



Alliance Building Society
Alliance Building Society, Alliance House, Howe Park, Hove, East Sussex BN3 7AZ.
All building societies aren't the same.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Glaxo soars on 'wonder drug' talk

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Speculation that the Glaxo Group is developing another wonder drug was rife in the City yesterday, driving the shares to a new £10.50 peak. It was being suggested that the drug, described as a potential blockbuster, could boost earnings almost as much as the money-spinning anti-ulcer drug Zantac, which has transformed the group.

The rumours stem from a visit to the United States and Canada by a group of analysts. One, Mrs Lindsay Jenkins, of Fielding, Newson-Smith, the broker, believes Glaxo has given high priority to the therapeutic drug for the nervous system.

She believes Glaxo might be within three years of launching the new product. "Our certainty

The licensed dealer Harvard Securities is expecting to make £200,000 out of the British Telecom flotation and double its client base to 60,000 in the process. Meanwhile, with a suitable splash, it is launching Watersides on its over the counter market. The company plans to develop roller coaster watersides, the first at Richmond, Surrey. Nearly two million shares are being sold at 20p.

that there is another new drug of high potential is enlivened by the very bullish tone of both the US and Canadian managements." Both operations expect to grow at what Mrs Jenkins thinks is an unrealistic rate unless an important new product is in the pipeline.

Glaxo said last night that it did not understand the basis of the market rumours and an announcement is not contemplated.

The drug group's shares have been as low as 700p this year. Equities, after a hesitant start, touched a new peak, as measured by the FTSE 100 share index. It reached 1,188.0 points, up 0.5, before closing a touch lower.

But the much narrower, but still more widely quoted, FT 30 share index finished 3.4 points down at 925.8. At one stage, it was nursing a 6.9 point fall.

Government stocks had another quiet session. Gains were at one stage up to 5%, helped by the Chancellor's talk of cheaper money and a moderately firmer pound.

Circulars from leading broker firms encouraged buyers of British & Commonwealth Shipping and the shares rose 5p to 215p, making a gain of 14p in two days.

Market men are enthusiastic about B & C after news this week from Telerate, the US information services company in which B & C has a directly-

held 13.2 per cent stake and another 11 per cent through its 21.7 per cent holding in Exco International.

Telerate increased third-quarter profits by nearly 62 per cent and upped the quarterly dividend from five to eight cents.

The bid battle developing around East Lancashire paper, in which B & C has 16.1 per cent, also does B & C shares no harm at this time.

At Laurence, Prust, the stockbroker, analyst Mr Dan White takes a positive line on the shares, saying "neither the prospective p/e, nor the discount to assets, is very demanding". He is a buyer of the stock, and notes that the assets are now worth around 325p a share.

The Liverpool stockbroker Tilney & Co. also has a "buy" rating on B & C.

Exco continues to enjoy the Telerate results, too, rising another 5p to 543p, making a 23p rise in two days.

Caledonia Investments, which owns 49 per cent of B & C, is trading close to its yearly high at 207p, up 6p.

Johnson Group Cleaners rose 3p to 455p as the first closing day for Nottingham Manufacturing's 410p a share cash bid passed. The bid has attracted only a small level of acceptance, and Nottingham is expected to extend its offer this morning.

Under takeover rules, Johnson has to release details of its defence, including the profits forecast and asset revaluation it has been preparing, by this weekend.

Thomas Borthwick & Sons closed unchanged at 24p as the meat trading group announced that it had increased its pretax profits from £3.8 million to £4.2 million in the year to the end of September, despite plunging seriously into the red during the first half of the year.

Electrotherm International, the electronics group, held steady at 280p, having risen strongly during the week. The shares gained 25p during Tuesday and Wednesday, following the presence of an institutional investor in the market. He wanted to buy 250,000 shares, but found the jobs short of sick and had to spread his buying over the two days.

Figures up to expectation left Habitat 12p down at 376p and Currys Group closed 2p higher (after 10p) on the Dixons Group victory claim.

A B Electronics saw profit-taking, losing 10p to 519p. Wednesday's 25p price for the shares pre-empted yesterday's publication of a "buy" circular from Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker.

Rowntree, Mackintosh, the chocolate maker, went 8p higher to 364p and the company's reorganisation plan for Britain. Two factories will close, at Edinburgh and Egrement.

Barratt Developments, the housebuilder which has been hurt by worries about timber frame structures rose 2p to 90p as the Norwich Union Insurance Group declared a 5.3 per cent stake.

Guest Keen and Nettlefolds fell 8p to 180p at one time before closing at 185p. A broker, believed to be Rowe and Pitman, has downgraded profit expectations. A broker's down-

Growth conscious Saatchi & Saatchi may well move soon to plug a gap in its activities - market research. AGB Research, which has had talks with Saatchi, is the obvious candidate. Highly rated AGB shares were unchanged at 240p yesterday, with Saatchi near its peak at 900p.

ward revision also lowered Woolworth Holdings.

British Telecom remained a dominating influence on the market. Lower interest rate expectations were also strong. With the spot price much steadier, oils were also in better shape, straggling off an early mark-down.

John Waddington rose 10p to 520p on an order for 1,000 shares. Yesterday was the last day, which Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing and Communication Corporation was allowed to raise its 500p-a-share cash bid. The Maxwell hope will be that disillusioned Waddington investors will sell, bringing the price back to the bid level. But one or two institutions have said they intend to ignore the BPCC offer.

Figures up to expectation left Habitat 12p down at 376p and Currys Group closed 2p higher (after 10p) on the Dixons Group victory claim.

The international performance was sluggish, partly reflecting the level of bad debt

MONEY MARKETS

Clearing Bank Rate 9% p.a.			4 months 10% p.a.	10 months 10% p.a.
Discount Rate 10% p.a.			12 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
Overnight High 9% p.a.			6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
Week End Rate 9% p.a.			1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
Treasury Bills (10% p.a.)			Secondary Mkt. (10% p.a.)	
1 month 9% p.a.	3 months 9% p.a.	6 months 9% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.
1 month 9% p.a.	3 months 9% p.a.	6 months 9% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
Local Authority Markets			Local Authority Markets	
1 day 9% p.a.	2 months 9% p.a.	3 months 9% p.a.	1 day 9% p.a.	2 months 9% p.a.
1 month 9% p.a.	3 months 9% p.a.	6 months 9% p.a.	1 month 9% p.a.	3 months 9% p.a.
1 month 9% p.a.	3 months 9% p.a.	6 months 9% p.a.	1 month 9% p.a.	1 year 9% p.a.
Prime Bank Bills (10% p.a.)			Prime Bank Bills (10% p.a.)	
1 month 9% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	1 month 9% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.
3 months 9% p.a.	3 months 10% p.a.	3 months 10% p.a.	3 months 9% p.a.	3 months 10% p.a.
6 months 9% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	6 months 9% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.
12 months 9% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	12 months 9% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
Local Authority Bonds			First Class Finance House (10% p.a.)	
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
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1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
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1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
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1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
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1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
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1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
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1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
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1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
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1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month 10% p.a.	6 months 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.	1 month 10% p.a.	12 months 10% p.a.
1 month				

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984					Cross								
High	Low	Company	Price	Chg % p/e	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg % p/e				
765	719	Aberdeen	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
770	715	After	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
775	710	Albion	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
780	705	Alfred	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
785	700	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
790	695	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
795	690	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
800	685	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
805	680	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
810	675	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
815	670	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
820	665	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
825	660	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
830	655	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
835	650	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
840	645	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
845	640	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
850	635	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
855	630	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
860	625	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
865	620	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
870	615	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
875	610	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
880	605	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
885	600	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
890	595	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
895	590	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
900	585	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
905	580	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
910	575	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
915	570	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
920	565	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
925	560	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
930	555	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
935	550	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
940	545	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
945	540	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
950	535	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
955	530	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
960	525	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
965	520	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
970	515	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
975	510	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
980	505	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
985	500	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
990	495	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
995	490	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1000	485	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1005	480	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1010	475	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1015	470	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1020	465	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1025	460	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1030	455	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1035	450	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1040	445	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1045	440	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1050	435	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1055	430	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1060	425	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1065	420	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1070	415	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1075	410	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1080	405	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1085	400	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1090	395	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1095	390	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1100	385	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1105	380	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1110	375	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1115	370	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1120	365	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1125	360	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1130	355	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1135	350	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1140	345	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1145	340	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1150	335	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1155	330	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1160	325	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1165	320	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1170	315	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1175	310	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1180	305	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1185	300	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1190	295	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1195	290	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1200	285	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1205	280	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1210	275	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1215	270	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1220	265	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1225	260	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1230	255	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1235	250	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1240	245	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1245	240	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1250	235	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1255	230	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1260	225	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1265	220	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1270	215	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1275	210	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1280	205	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1285	200	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1290	195	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1295	190	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1300	185	Anglo	120	-1	7.2	8.5	175	120	87.68%	157	-4	2.0	1.2
1305	180												

Gordon Pepper, a radical among the Square Mile's reformers

Taking the gilt out of the Exchange

Mr Gordon Pepper, joint senior partner of the stockbrokers W Greenwell & Co, has long been the guru of the gilt-edged market. He is now emerging as the City's chief revolutionary, advocating the removal of the gilt edged market from the Stock Exchange.

This suggestion has gone down like a lead balloon on the 23rd floor of the Stock Exchange and it is unlikely to fare better at the Bank of England; it runs counter to what has become the conventional wisdom. But Mr Pepper has ploughed lonely furrows before, and he has a habit of being right more often than he is wrong.

A Cambridge economist, he joined Greenwell's in 1960, after 2½ years with Equity & Law as an actuarial student. He entered stockbroking without any previous City connections, forming part of what he describes as "the technocrat revolution," with contemporaries such as Mr John Brew, now chief executive at Grieve-Grant.

That revolution has been most dramatic in the back offices of stockbroking firms, and the move to rigorous, detailed research. "Until the mid to late 1950s, modern investment analysis did not exist," Mr Pepper says. "Company research consisted of lunch with the chairman."

First for life assurance shares and then for gilt-edged securi-

ties, he took research by the scruff of the neck. He draws a parallel between his own career and that of Dr Henry Kaufman, the best-known of the present breed of Wall Street economists.

Four or five players are likely to dominate the market

Both developed their reputations, not by just producing interest rate or market predictions, but by providing convincing theories of price or rate movements.

In Mr Pepper's case he pioneered many of the mathematical and statistical techniques used in the gilt market. He seized on the more readily available financial and economic statistics.

His particular strength, and one in which Greenwell's maintains its lead, is in analysis of the gilt market via banking sector flows.

One of his early initiatives was to accumulate detailed banking returns going back to the 1930s. In 1967, when the Bank of England decided it needed a little more monetary history, a couple of officials

were despatched to Greenwell's to photocopy the figures.

Mr Pepper admits that without the help of his long-time, recently-retired colleague, Mr Charles Frappell, his reputation as the gilt market's resident guru may never have come about.

"Charles sniffed and knew whether the market was going up or down," he says. "Research in isolation can lose a lot of money, when the research and the initiative are moving in the same direction, that is the time to act."

As one of the luminaries of the gilt market as it is currently constituted, he is not viewing its passing with any joy. "I shall always remember August 1983 as the time when the death sentence of the gilt-edged market was confirmed," he says. "I was emotionally distressed for about a week."

He was quick to see the development of the gilt market along the lines of the American treasury bond market, with primary government bond dealers with direct access to the Bank of England, inter-dealer brokers to deal between the primary dealers, and agent brokers.

He says now: "The Bank has probably had 40 or 50 serious inquiries about primary dealership. Some 20 or 25 of these are likely to put in firm applications. Within five years of the change I would expect the market to be dominated by four or five players, with 10 other primary dealers in business."

"We will be running our operation on the basis that we will survive after the shake-out. Our guiding principle will be the preservation of capital. Sally's (Salomon Brothers) and Goldman-Sachs are expert at hedging risk."

Greenwell's has entered into a partnership with Samuel Montagu, the merchant banking arm of the Midland Bank. The two have been operating an international dealership together since June of this year, and the intention is to become a primary government bond dealer under the new system. Samuel Montagu has taken the maximum 29.9 per cent presently allowed in Greenwell's, with the stake to rise eventually to 50 per cent.

Mr Pepper says: "We chose a merchant bank because of access to a large balance sheet, but it was important to choose someone with a strong trading tradition. Samuel Montagu has



over 100 years of trading experience. We are very confident that we have got it right."

Montagu's trading experience has sidestepped the need to take a firm of jobbers on board, he says. It also avoids the "different cultures" problem of many other link-ups which has been announced for the Stock Exchange's new era, he says.

Greenwell's has also attempted to avoid the problem whereby staff below partnership

'Our guiding principle will be the preservation of capital'

level will be without incentive by retaining 50 per cent of the equity and by ensuring that one third of profits made will be retained within the business.

The Greenwell-Montagu primary government bond dealer, which Mr Pepper clearly expects to become one of the four or five leading players in the new gilt market will, he suggests, avoid many of the potential conflicts of interest inherent in other groupings.

There are two main potential areas of conflict, he maintains.

He adds: "One problem arises when you get a stockbroker who is a discretionary fund manager acting as a primary government

bond dealer. As soon as the broker starts acting as a principal, the clash of interest could be blatant."

"The appropriate short-run constraint is that any discretionary fund manager executing a transaction with a related broker acting as principal must accept the onus of being able to prove that his client's business could not have been transacted on better terms elsewhere. The operational rule in many US houses is that the price must be checked with three alternative market makers before business is transacted in house and that a record must be kept including the precise time."

"In a fast-moving market, as the gilt market will be, it may be that you will not be able to do this. It may be that in practice, discretionary fund managers should not deal with primary government bond dealers with whom they are linked."

Mr David Hopkinson, the chairman of unit trust group M & G, has, on several occasions, raised the question of potential conflicts of interest in the City's new era.

Mr Pepper says: "I agree with most of David Hopkinson's doubts. David's worries are valid, there are problems. There has been a lack of clarity of thought on the changes."

The second area of conflict peculiar to the gilt market is that between primary govern-

ment bond dealers and inter-dealer brokers, who will deal between the primary dealers.

Mr Pepper is concerned that some financial conglomerates will seek to become both primary dealers and inter-dealer brokers.

The difficulty will arise, he says, because inter-dealer brokers will have access to confidential information about all the primary dealers with whom they deal. If an IDB is linked up with one particular primary dealer, then other primary dealers may steer clear of it for fear that such information is passed on to a competitor.

An IDB which is associated with a primary dealer will have difficulty convincing the Bank of England of a broadly-based demand for its services, he suggested, implying that the best solution may be to withhold IDB licences from companies setting up primary dealerships.

Important though these two areas of difficulty are, they pale into insignificance besides Mr Pepper's bombshell suggestion that the gilt market be taken out of the Stock Exchange.

There are three arguments for merging bond and bill markets

He admits that his view has only recently changed on this subject. In May, when he delivered a speech on the future structure of the gilt market to a City University audience, the vision was of a market in which the majority of business would be conducted via telephone and television screen, but one which would remain under the Stock Exchange's auspices.

This speech looks like a blueprint for the Stock Exchange's own discussion document on the gilt market, published in August, and the Bank of England's gilt market "green paper," published in early November.

In the past six months, however, Mr Pepper's view on the central question of whether the gilt market should be within the Stock Exchange has changed.

He explains the change as follows: "There is no fundamental difference between a three-month Treasury bill and a gilt-edged stock which is three

months away for redemption. Separation of bills from bonds is far harder to justify than separation of a gilt-edged broker, which is to be scrapped."

There are three main arguments for merging the bill and bond markets and allowing primary government bond dealers to act as discount houses, Mr Pepper says.

The first is that a single unit combining the two roles would be able to take advantage of substantial economies of scale in the use of capital. The second is one of simplicity. As presently envisaged, every purchase of gilts by a primary dealer from the Bank will involve a complex roundabout of transactions between primary dealer, Bank and discount house.

If the discount house and primary dealer were to be merged, a simple two-way transaction would result, together with balance sheet adjustments in the discount house/primary dealer.

The third argument advanced by Mr Pepper is one of fairness. Discount houses are to be offered the opportunity of becoming primary dealers, but stockbrokers are not to be given the chance of operating as discount houses.

This could give discount houses an unfair advantage, he says, because they will be given a chance to operate right along the maturity range from bills to long gilts. The average maturity on which a primary dealer is operating, if restricted from operating in bills, will clearly be longer.

Insistence that the gilt market remain under the Stock Exchange's auspices, Mr Pepper says, provides a convenient excuse for the continued separation of bill and bond markets. In practice, the Bank will be regulating the market. "The industrial logic of merging the markets in bills and bonds should be given priority over the gilt-edged market remaining within the Stock Exchange."

All of which could leave the Stock Exchange feeling rather like the Greenwell's client a few years ago who was caught out when Mr Pepper turned bearish on gilts.

"I'm perfectly happy to take the Bank on," he says plausibly. "I'm perfectly happy to take the market on. But I'm bluffed if I'm going to take Gordon Pepper on as well."

David Smith

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

- INTERNATIONAL THOMSON ORGANISATION:** Sales £1,300,500 (£1,142,800) for nine months to September 30. Pretax profit £130,500 (£120,500). Earnings per share 25.8p (20.9p). Shares 489p up 7p.
- BB INDUSTRIES:** Results for half year to September 30. Interim dividend 3.1p (2.8p). Turnover £285.9 million. Operating profit £37.5 million (£34.9 million). Pretax profit £40.4 million (£36.7 million). Earnings per share 12.0p (12.9p). Shares 290p down 3p.
- CARLESS CAPEL & LEO-NARD:** Has announced an interim dividend of 1p (1p). Results for the half-year to September 30 last (figures in £'000) show a turnover of £1,301 (40410) and gross profit of 792 (£218). Pretax profit totalled 3060 (£1360) and shares were unchanged at 183p.
- MOUNTVIEW ESTATES:** An interim dividend of 1.0p (1.0p), payable on March 25, has been announced. The chairman reports that the full year are expected to be comparable with those for 1983-84. Shares were 343p up 3p.
- BRINKHOUSE DUDLEY:** The company has announced an interim dividend of 0.95p (0.95p). Results (figures in £'000) show sales of 15,269 (19,150) for six months to September 30 last. Trading profit was 983 (467) with pretax profit at 765 (279). Earnings per share were 2.7p (1.18p) and shares rose to 69p.
- MONKS INVESTMENT TRUST:** An interim dividend of 1.1p (1.1p) has been declared. Results for the six months to October 30 (figures in £'000) reveal gross investment income of 2089 (£265). Earnings per ordinary share were 1.03p (1.18p) with asset value per ordinary share of 190.1p (184.8p at April 30 last).
- EVANS OF LEEDS:** The company is paying an interim dividend of 1.375p (1.25p). Results for the six months to September 30 last (figures in £'000) show gross rents receivable at 3,170 (£3,020), pretax profit at 2,010 (£1,828), including interest receivable at 109 (£230) but after interest charges and other expenses of 1,274 (£1,442).
- RENNICK GROUP:** Results for the half-year to June 30 last show (figures in £'000) a turnover of 20,348 against 57,581 for the nine months to December 31 last. Pretax profit was 243 (£1,021) with tax at 48 (£56) and extraordinary credit at 190 (£1,550). Earnings per share were 1.7p. The interim dividend was passed (also nil last time).
- BARBICAN HOLDINGS:** Results for the 15 months to June 30 last (12 months to March 31 last year) with figures in £'000 show a turnover of 748 (£896). Loss on discontinued activities totalled 513 (£11). Interest payable was 40 (£177). Pretax loss amounted to 956 (£783). Loss per share was 0.85p (£1.95p).

WALL STREET

	Nov 26	Nov 27		Nov 26	Nov 27		Nov 26	Nov 27
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
AMEX	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
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OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
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OTC	14.12	14.12	Prod Corp Stores	46.4	46.4	Phillips Petrol	47.4	47.4
NYSE								

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Mr Trippier's £40m question

By John Lawless

The Small Business Minister, David Trippier, asked a £40 million question this week: are companies in some of England's most industrially-depressed areas prepared to cough up cash for consultants to advise them on how to run things more efficiently? That is the amount set aside for small firms under a new scheme, Business Improvement Services (BIS), which will consume two-fifths of a new aid programme, mostly funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Mr Trippier insists that when subsidised hand-holding services are used, only one in five small firms goes to the wall in its first year. Otherwise, one in three fails. However, when

cash was set aside from the last ERDF programme (for regions losing jobs through declining activities in steel and shipbuilding), only £4 million of £6 million was taken up.

To be putting up almost seven times as much is a big gamble for the Government. Experience elsewhere has shown that though firms are attracted by the idea of getting 55 per cent of their consultancy costs paid for, they swallow hard at the prospect of paying out the rest. That was the case with the Financial Management Advisory Service Experiment, conducted in the West Midlands since June with £100,000 in the kitty. However, it is due to close for applications today and a last-minute

rush of potential customers has defeated early fears of failure.

The BIS has been extended to areas traditionally dominated by textiles. It is designed to provide grants (sometimes up to 70 per cent) to develop things fully, such as marketing strategies and financial management systems. Trippier admits that he cribbed the idea from the Better Business Services scheme which has been run in Strathclyde and Tayside during the past year (with Scotland now due to get £1.0m for an extension of the ERDF package elsewhere).

If its results are anything to go on, he is on to a winner. It has given grants to 3,500 firms - having had 500 laid down as its benchmark for success.

A broader canvas

By Ross Davies

The Mary Rose is not the only treasure the Solent has yielded. For Bill Bishop, the man who has painted the ship's hull, the waters around his native Portsmouth are providing the raw material for a new livelihood as a marine artist.

It is four years since Bishop, then 38, decided to sell his artistry supplies business in order to paint. Now while he spends hours developing his technique as an artist he also applies techniques he learnt as a businessman in order to market his oils and watercolours.

Take the prints of his originals. Prints of his Mary Rose watercolour, for instance, are sold by the trust to help defray the £800,000 costs each year to maintain the wreck - but Bishop retains copyright to the prints.

Two years ago, Bishop tried an ambitious watercolour of the aircraft-carrier HMS Hermes, returning to Portsmouth from the Falklands. He then contacted a print publisher, who offered £50 for the copyright -

and nothing further. Mr Bishop said it could cost £25 in travel to see the publisher, so he decided to risk some of his own capital and asked a printer to run off 2,000 copies of his Hermes original.

Next Bishop secured permission to sell the prints aboard Hermes, then shrinkwrapped the remainder and hawked them around Portsmouth's stores on a sale-or-return basis. He told me: "I got £400 for the original and £10,000 for the prints."

Mr Bishop's choice of genre, his talent and his hard work both for painting and promotion mean that already he can sell all he produces. However, much of his sales are what he calls "potboilers", often painted from photographs of boats and ships which their owners and crews send him, rather than original paintings of subjects that caught Bishop's own eyes.

Now Mr Bishop wants to develop as an artist, and in particular is aiming beyond his present, immensely detailed style towards a more impressionistic presentation.



Bill Bishop, one of the ships that launched a small business

Enterprise in the forest

Just opened in the Forest of Dean, courtesy of Rank Xerox, are the Mitcheldean Enterprise Workshops. They aim to offer facilities for 82 small firms in a self-contained "business village" of 82,000 square feet. The centre was initiated by the company on a five-acre site at its main British copier-production plant on a non-profit making basis. It has a full range of commercial facilities for firms wanting anything from 200 to 3,000 square feet - with free business-advisory services available.

Contact: Bernard Morris, Rank Xerox, Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire GL17 0DD (telephone 0654 542421).

A clothing buyer from mid Wales visited the "rag trade" centre of London's West End last week - and ended up buying knitwear made just 10 miles away from his own head office. He had, by chance, come across the products in the Mid Wales Development Centre's new offices cum-

exhibition centre in Berners Street, W1. The centre provides inexpensive promotional, conference and straightforward office facilities for companies from Mid Wales (and allows part-use of them to any Welsh firms). The first firm to stage an exclusive display of its products, Towny Pottery, came in this week and has already secured a "substantial" export order for its bone china giftware.

Contact: James Grafton, London Executive, Mid Wales Development Centre, 58-59 Berners Street, London W1 (01-636 3916/9).

Exporters are bad form-fillers, especially when filing letters of credit (which should guarantee payment) and completing insurance claims (when foreign buyers fail to pay). The Export Credits Guarantee Department, however, has just updated three of its Action Guides. In layman's language, they explain about Cutting your Losses, Sizing up the Buyer Risk and Using the Credit Limit Service.

Contact: Publicity Branch, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL (01-382 7777).



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